REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

Issue 115 $2 ISSN 0149-9971 Edited & Published by Glenn Hauser

TELEVISION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: A VISITOR'S VIEW

(c) 1986 by Vito Echevarría

Last August, I visited the Dominican Republic for three weeks with some friends from my college. Despite the fact that we spent the bulk of our vacation at discos in Santiago and at beaches in Puerto Plata with shapely Dominican girls, I found some time to analyze TV in that country.

In the Dominican Republic, like other Third World countries, TV (and now VCRs) are a staple among the rich. Middle class Dominicans from New York (known as Dominican-Yorkers) who own houses in the Dominican Republic, like my friend and fellow Fordham student Martín Chicón, tend to own large, color TV sets, while wealthy Dominicans may go so far as to buy and set up satellite dishes for their home viewing. In Santiago (an hour's drive south of Puerto Plata), where I spent much time, I walked thru a slum called "Barrio de Libertad," where the classical stereotypes of Third World lifestyles are vivid: open sewers, half-naked little kids running down unpaved streets with a stick and a bicycle rim, chickens running amok, etc. I once went into a badly-built, dirt-floored, one-room wooden shack (occupied by a four-member family), where the only source of music is a vintage RCA radio, which is starkly contrasted by a small, relatively new black and white TV set (sent to the shack's owners from a benevolent relative from New York) which is the centerof attention there. How they pay for electricity to run the TV remains a deep, dark mystery. Unlike poor Hondurans, for example, who would go without new clothes and shoes in order to buy a new TV, Martín Chicón states that "Dominicans would most likely wait until a relative from New York sends them a TV, even if it means writing tear-jerking letters to that relative in order to get a Sony Trinitron."

In the Dominican Republic, as is the case with many Central & South American countries, televisions are not cheap for most people. With the extra shipping charges, import duties, government corruption, etc., a TV in the local TV stores will sell for three to four times what the same set would go for in the U.S. In a country where the per capita income is just over US$1,200 [per year], the average Dominican would have just enough to buy a 19" TV set from a year's wages, assuming he/she has a job! As a result, TVs, as well as walkmans and other Japanese-made electronics, are a luxury. To give you an idea of what I'm talking about, I took a short ride inside a "conch car" (small four-door Datsuns that serve as the main mode of transportation in Santiago) on my way to a friend's house, having to squeeze in the back seat with my friend and three locals, one of them holding a live chicken. After I paid the driver the 35 centavos fare (US 12¢), I sat through the ride (uncomfortably) listening to a disco tape on my Toshiba walkman. Right away, the campesina lady with the live chicken said "Dominican-York" as she was glancing at the walkman as though it were something out of STAR WARS.

Because electronics and other 'gringo goodies' are rare in the Dominican Republic, they're in high demand, especially among rich young kids in "los barrios ricos"--who won't hesitate to pay DR$300 (US$105) for a walkman. A friend's uncle, intrigued by the interesting features of my CASIO calculator watch, offered to buy it from me for DR$100 (US$35). In a country where TV and other "gringo goodies" are status symbols, it's little wonder that young New Yorkers like myself are treated like celebrities in many parts of the Dominican Republic, while the poor barefoot campesino, who can't possibly afford such luxuries, let alone afford shoes, gets treated like the dirt that's embedded between his toes! As Don Moore said in his article on TV in Honduras (in a Fall 1984 issue of RIB), "No one respects poor barefoot campesinos." Dominican Republic is by no means an exception.

Like Hondurans--who feelthat they're moving up the social ladder (or in their case, "being American"), Dominicans also feel 'affluent' when they finally own a color TV. However, Dominicans are too proud and patriotic to say that owning a brand-new TV makes them "as good as Americans." Instead, they just want to move to New York (which already holds a large Dominican population, particularly in Upper Manhattan) and get away from the high unemployment and poverty that's been a growing problem there. Because of the economic situation there, young male New Yorkers (as well as Dominicans with US citizenship) are a hot item among poor and middle-class members of the female population in cities like Santiago!

Because films shown in movie theatres are outdated (such as DEATH WISH III and POLICE ACADEMY III--shown on video in the US but in Santiago as first-run films!), TV programming in the Dominican Republic offers people a more current alternative form of entertainment. Many programs from the US are shown here with Spanish dubbing. The American program that's a hit over here has to be MIAMI VICE. Shown on channel 11 at 7 pm, everyone from construction workers to Dominican-York crack dealers visiting their families here, watch the program's stars Crockett & Tubbs, as their dubbed voices unsuccessfully attempt to match the movement of their lips during a shoot-out.

Along with other American programs, like REMINGTON STEELE, Dominican TV programs can be hilarious to the American eye. Weekdays at 1 pm (on Santiago's channel 7), a comedy program, SABROSHOW, shows skits such as the one I saw, where a young, light-skinned Dominicana brings home her dark-skinned, sharp-tongued boyfriend to her bigoted mother, who threatens to throw them both out of her house when she catches them making out on the living room couch. Afterwards, the female merengue band Belkys Concepción y Sus Chicas were shown performing one of their songs.

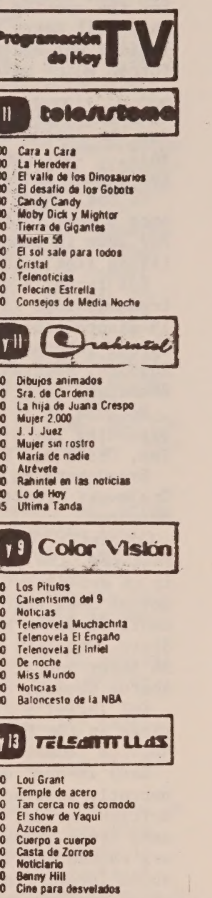
Another variety program, shown on Thursday nights, features videos from New York-based merengue

bands, such as "La Gran Manzana" (which literally means The Big Apple) and "The New York Band". What's so amusing about merengue bands is that they'll take a disco or pop song from América, such as De-Barge's "Rhythm of the Night" or Baltimora's club hit "Tarzan Boy," and turn those songs into merengue hits. As a result, the majority of radio stations in the Dominican Republic play these songs out every hour.

Along with baseball and basketball games, which are very popular among Dominicans, there's a ridiculous wrestling program shown every Saturday morning, which features poorly orchestrated "wrestling" (or should I say acting) by the likes of Mr. T Número Dos" (a cheap imitation of Mr T), "Los Comandantes" and the "Dominican-York," as well as a crazy, blonde female wrestler, who calls herself "La Bella Salua," who confronts opponents and ring announcers alike with a long stick!

In Santiago's La Nuit Disco (which shares the same building as the americanized Hotel Matum) where Dominican-York and rich teens dance to merengue and disco music, the disco's ultra-modern interior is made complete with two large video screens, which frequently show movies and baseball games from the US. Since Dominican cities (like Honduran cities Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula), where illegal cable networks show privileged subscribers programs from HBO, WGN, Showtime, etc--the nightclub's owners use their satellite dish to steal the signal from the US, interrupt the movie that was originally being shown, and project a ball game on the screen, whenever a Dominican player, like Rafael Santana of the New York Mets or Pedro Guerrero of the L.A. Dodgers, is batting. When the ball player strikes out or finishes getting a homerun, the movie resumes play. Altho US cable services don't have a contract with the country, timetables for cable programs are printed in the local newspapers, as though cable were legal here. [such as immediately below the local listing at right; including CBN, ESN, LIF, NIK, SHO, USA, WGN, WOR, TBS, TMC] When Martín Chicón was asked about the cable situation, he merely replied: "What's HBO going to do, sue the Dominican Republic? The government would laugh at its face!" [The spread of scrambling may have changed this situation -gh]

What does TV do for Dominicans besides serve as an escape from the harsh economic realities that surround them? Stir up patriotism? Sure, but TV does little to address social issues in that nation, such as high unemployment (presently over 30%), the impact of IMF policies on food prices, etc. For example the wrestling program and the SABROSHOW [a play on words--"sabroso" means tasty -gh] along with its commercial sponsors (such as Bermúdez Rum), do nothing more than propagate Latin machismo through the emphasis of violence and sex on Dominican television. Shows like MIAMI VICE reinforce the view that it's all right to sell drugs and kill people in order to get rich, like the Latin drug dealers on the show. To the poor barefoot campesino, as well as other Dominicans, they are considered "heroes," because they transcended poverty through drug trafficking (another growing problem in the Dominican Republic). It is very hard, for example, for young women in Santiago not to admire the Dominican drug dealer from New York, who's driving a customized Mercedes Benz and wearing more gold chains than Mr. T.



These TV programs, as a result, can only serve to undermine a still-peaceful stable society. It's only a matter of time before more Dominicans turn to drugs and crime as a means of "dealing" with poverty. Hopefully, Dominican TV will do something to avert a situation similar to the deteriorating social structure in neighboring Puerto Rico, where crime is an everyday reality.

(La Tarde Alegre, Thursday, Nov 13)

YOUR ONLY RENEWAL NOTICE is a red arrow on your mailing label and exposure of box it normally covers!

RIB BACK ISSUES FOR SALE Expand your collection with lots of good reading. Limited supply of issues 90 through 110 available for $1.50 each; 111 for $1; 112-113 (one issue) and 114 for $2 each, postpaid prices in North America only. Once these are gone there will be no more. Available only from Glenn Hauser, Box 490756, Ft Lauderdale FL 33349. THIS ISSUE'S COVER: from Kraig W Krist

CLOSING DATE for this issue 115: 19 January 1986; expected mailing within four days.

-via FBIS

edited by Robert Horvitz

A F G H A N I S T A N (Tehran domestic service, 21 May 86) ...the Soviet Government from now on will be in full control of the radio and television programs of Afghanistan. With this project, programs that will be prepared in Moscow will be relayed via satellite throughout Afghanistan... At present, the programs of Afghanistan's television are prepared in Kabul and are then relayed via satellite to Moscow for approval. [Worldwide Report: Telecommunications Policy, Research & Development, TTP-86-018]

I S R A E L (Moscow domestic service, 2 Aug 86) With Israeli cooperation the United States has taken a new step toward expanding ideological sabotage against the socialist countries and the Arab peoples. Thus, in particular, a US-Israeli agreement has been initialed in Jerusalem, providing for the opening of 16 relay stations on the territory of the Zionist state in the very near future. They will serve the subversive VOA, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe...intensifying the psychological war against the socialist countries. Incidentally, they are also mouthpieces for Zionist forces which make use of the stations for hostile activity against Arab states. [TTP-86-023]

(Audrey Galex, Israel Scene #7, Jerusalem, July 86) The office of Kol Israel International is often the second stop Soviet Jewish immigrants make upon arriving in Israel. The first is the Western Wall. "They come to us to say thank you for your voices," explained Victor Grajevski, Director of Kol Israel International.

In the Soviet Union, an estimated four million Jewish and nonJewish listeners tune in at least once a week to Kol Israel which has been credited with spearheading the Soviet Jewry movement. For Jews in other parts of the world, particularly North America and Europe, Kol Israel provides a living link with Israel.

Kol Israel's external programming started modestly but has grown into one of the ten largest radio transmissions in the world. Inaugurated in 1948 as "The Voice of Zion to the Diaspora," it carried 15-minute broadcasts in Yiddish, French and English... Currently, with a staff of close to 100, Kol Israel International broadcasts around the world in 17 languages. These include English, French, Russian, Moghrabi, Hebrew, easy Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese, Ladino, Bukharan, Georgian, Hungarian, Romanian, Amharic, Yiddish, Persian and Arabic.

Because of growing concern over anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in Europe, Kol Israel is considering expanding its overseas broadcasts within the next year to include programs in German, Italian, Turkish, Greek and Scandinavian...

Broadcasts to the Soviet Union began in 1955 with 15-minute daily Russian news and feature reports. Grajevski credits these programs with raising Jewish consciousness and spurring the Soviet Jewry Movement...

Currently, 6-hour daily transmissions to the USSR are provided... In addition to news bulletins and features, the programs enable Israelis to dedicate songs to Soviet friends and relatives. The idea is to avoid anti-Soviet and anti-Communist polemic and to focus on reports that emphasize to Soviet Jews that they are not alone. Still, many who listen to Kol Israel and other foreign broadcasts do so in hiding, says the director of the Jerusalem Soviet Jewry Information Center, Yuri Stern, who left Moscow in 1981. Transmission interference by Soviet authorities is a constant threat so important stories are usually broadcast first in case the transmission is later jammed, explained Aharon Ormian, director of broadcasts to the Soviet Union.

Kol Israel's Arabic broadcasts are aimed at shattering myths about Jews and about Israel's intentions in the Middle East. "We have a modest goal," said political analyst Shaul Menashe, an Arabic service commentator. "We want to be accepted."

Each 18-hour daily Arabic broadcast opens with a Koran recitation. Its news and features are apparently popular fare for listeners from North Africa to the Gulf States. According to a recent British survey, Kol Israel ranks second to Radio Monte Carlo as the station Arabic speakers prefer, said Arnon Gross, a political reporter with the Arabic service. According to the poll, Arab listeners choose Kol Israel because of the reliability of the news and because of their interest in hearing about Israel from an Israeli viewpoint. Since there is no direct mail service between Israel and any other Arab country except Egypt, listeners often contact Kol Israel through a post office box in Geneva...

As for the Christian world, the station's English-language award-winning show "In the Holy Land," which explores Christian life in Israel, is broadcast to hundreds of stations worldwide through Kol Israel's transcription service.

In addition to providing news of Israel to the outside world, some of Kol Israel's multilingual programs are intended for those who live in the country. Broadcasts in the mother tongue of new immigrants help ease their integration into Israeli society...

The languages broadcast change acording to fluctuations in aliya. Polish broadcasts stopped in 1960 when Polish immigration ended, while Spanish broadcasts began in 1984, following an upsurge in aliyah from South America. Most recently, Amharic, the language spoken by Ethiopians, was added after Operation Moses brought a large influx of Ethiopian Jews to the country last year.

It is perhaps the more than 2000 pieces of mail received by the overseas department every month that best reflects the range of services Kol Israel's international broadcasts provide... For a complete schedule of all languages write to: English Service, Kol Israel, P.O.B. 1082, Jerusalem 91010, Israel. [Near East/South Asia Report, NEA-86-098]

U S S R (TASS, 28 April 86) Oleg Tumanov, former acting editor-in-chief of the Russian service of Radio "Liberty", spoke at a press conference at the Press Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR today. He told newsmen how after defecting to the West more than 20 years ago

...US intelligence officials arranged his employment with Radio "Liberty" where he started at the very bottom and worked his way up to an editor of the news desk of the Radio "Liberty"'s Russian service, chief of the news desk, and chief of the current affairs desk. Finally, in recent time he was performing the duties of editor-in-chief of the Radio "Liberty"'s Russian service.

Oleg Tumanov emphasized in his statement that the RL/RFE are a branch of US secret services, a convenient front for covert operations against the USSR and other socialist countries. The visible tip of the iceberg are the so-called propaganda activities... "The invisible activities, which are pursued by the radio station...and which remain unknown to the audiences at large, are purely in the nature of intelligence. This, incidentally, is not a secret to the West German Government...

"Over my 20 years of work at the radio station I have seen many documents, attended the conferences of its senior officials and personally talked to representatives of US secret services... RL director Nikolay Prokofiyevich Vaslev is a staff member of US military intelligence and his assistant Nikolay Petroff is a CIA staffer... The list can be continued. But I will name a whole department which works directly under the CIA's control. The address is 193 Saint-Germain Boulevard, Paris. Located there is the so-called audience research department. It is headed by CIA officer Gene Parta. Similiar offices in Vienna, Rome, Copenhagen, Dusseldorf, Hamburg, Salzburg and elsewhere also report to him. The department and its affiliates gather and process information on issues of interest to the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency and approach Soviet citizens on visits abroad with the aim of cultivating possibly and recruiting them...

"My road back home has been tortuous," Oleg Tumanov said in conclusion. "I wouldn't wish anybody to experience this kind of 20-year-long road. I am now at home and it would seem the easiest thing to say that everything I have lived through has been a nightmare... No, a dream it hasn't been. Everything I told you here has been a reality, a nightmarish reality... At a difficult time, and the world is going through a difficult time now, every honest person should be with his own people. This is why I am here." [TTP-86-018]

(Victor Ponomarev, TASS, 19 May) ...Tumanov stressed that neither at the press conference nor after it did a single foreign correspondent cast any doubt on his statement about the ties between Radio Liberty and the CIA. One must suppose that this pact was obvious to them... But they had tried to discredit him as a person. For them Tumanov repeated that he made his decision to return to the homeland a long time ago, and had been gathering information on the activities of Radio Liberty for many years. Hence the details he is talking about are strictly documented, and all of this documentation is in the hands of the relevant Soviet bodies.

...Tumanov said, that no one can be hired at Radio Liberty who had not been screened by US special services. In Munich, the "security section" is headed by Richard Cummings, a seasoned CIA officer. Robert Redlich, in charge of Radio Liberty's liaison with the press, is from the same "team." ...Radio Liberty's "Russian Service" is directed by Vladimir Golscoy, a seasoned US military intelligence officer. In the corridors of the station he can be seen in the uniform of a US major. A former expert in psychological warfare methods, he still attends special training courses at the US McGraw base near Munich...

Radio Liberty maintains no less close liaison with branches of US military intelligence, located in Munich and its surrounding areas, Tumanov stated. These are the intelligence schools for training cadres specializing in espionage against the USSR. There are two such schools in Bavaria. One is concealed in the US McGraw Army barracks, and the other is in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Students at both intelligence schools have free access to the territory of Radio Liberty, to its closed materials and dossiers, and the radio station's staff members give lectures to them and coach the students... These student's careers later taken them to Langley, the Pentagon, refugee camps, radio intelligence stations and not last, the embassy and other missions of the United States in the USSR... [TTP-86-016]

Z I M B A B W E (SAPA, Johannesburg, 23 Sept 86) Harare - A radio and television transmitter has been installed at the southern border town of Beitbridge under a government resolve to shield all bordering and remote areas from the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC)...the semi-official news agency ZIANA reports. The deputy minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Dr. Naomi Nhiwatiwa, responding to points raised by senators during debate on the presidential speech, said the transmitter was functioning "well" and that other areas would be provided for during the 1987/1988 financial year. "All remote areas should be able to pick up ZBC radio and television...," she said, stressing that SABC propaganda was creating a situation which could not be tolerated. The deputy minister said it was imperative from political, economic, and security points of view for Zimbabwe to dissociate itself from South Africa, hence the establishment of an international communications network. She said the process of "de-linking" had proved successful through the operations of the Amzoe earth satellite station and the Panaftel links with Botswana and Zambia. "Now that we are completing work on the external network our attention is focused on the domestic one," she said... [TTP-86-025]

SATELLITE WATCH

by Loren Cox

RON &

MIK /

"Adventures in Summitry" -
#2

by satellite
from Reykjavik
picturesque setting for negotiating about
weaponry unreal - because the imagination
cannot grasp the consequences
of their use - or only in a
a flawed way: who sees "star wars" in his dreams

And spent that Sunday
in front of that old white frame
former French ambassador's residence
of unusual architecture
with chilled, bored, milling reporters
the "anchors" ever at the ready
one expressing urgent need
to relieve certain biological pressures
achieved when his colleagues formed a shield
around him
while rumors circulated
in regard to a possibly unprecedented
agreement in the area of arms
control/reduction
but when, finally,
the long awaited opening of the doors
occurred
and the unlikliest of gods
emerged
their unsmiling uplinked visages
bespoke the failure
of the protectors of their nations
but not of mankind
to reach that accord
(a chimaera)
whereby each side
is secure against the other

But hopes were raised
even in Bechtel's man
initially disappointed at the breakdown
(yet a few days later the "failure"
had become - for domestic political reasons? -
a kind of success)
and the star of Vremya
(B, P, E, M and the backward R) -
whom I located on W3/5, the Moscow feed
on G2/11 having been taken down
with the preceeding folk dance/mx program
still in progress -
heard R.R. say
what he either said or didn't say
which has been requiring an almost
daily clarification
as R.R. continues each
day on the "campaign trail"
either to say or not say it
to say
that his proposal at Reykjavik
was the elimination (within 10 years)
of all nuclear weapons
(which was M.G.'s understanding)
or was it only ballistic missiles
as a delivery mode for nuclear devices
as one explanation has it
he was proposing to eliminate
- not really knowing the palpable difference?

But
we may safely assume
it was at least the latter he meant? -
if, indeed, he can imagine it:
for, to imagine a world without
nuclear armed ballistic missiles
is to imagine a world
in which his grandest vision
the "star wars" defensive strategy
has no place, no purpose, no rationale

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

BBC TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMMES are now viewable in North America via a domestic Clarke Belt satellite! - Yes, I've been watching the "Six O'Clock News" and the "Nine O'Clock News" on Galaxy 2, Tr. 11. The former is up "live" - actually joined about 5 minutes in progress with the missed portion run at the end from tape - and the latter is taped for re-release at about 23:25 UTC. The transmissions are being put up by NHK London for NHK Tokyo, so they are being received here as a part of a three satellite hop. Shortened weekend news programmes are also shown. Since these transmissions are intended for Japan they are 525/NTSC. Thus the viewing is better than has been the case with the British ITV news programs I've been watching (e.g. the "ITN News at 5:45") which, being intended for Australia, remain 625/PAL. Also on this channel NHK are putting up newsfeeds from the continental networks - in the original language. Some are most interesting and won't be seen on the "CBS Evening News". And I'm afforded an opportunity to add to my collection of "chyrons" (test patterns). Guess I'm a strange one, getting a thrill out of seeing, say, a ZDF test pattern on my monitor accompanied by the German voice identifier. How I lust for Intelsat access! Which will become a necessity when scrambling of "backhauls" becomes routine on the domestic "birds". When the London billboard is up, the audio channel on G2/11 is occupied by Capital Radio, London (as is the case with the London feed on Satcom F1/11). As a result, at the end of the 18:00 NHK feed (about 18:55), a portion of the 19:00 news magazine show, "The Way It Is" can be heard - until about 19:20, when an ABC soap in progress comes up. The channel is used for ABC domestic and overseas "backhauls".

MY SPECULATIONS ABOUT RCI/BBC satellite feeds on ANIK D, Tr. 1 have been corrected by a recent item on SWLD. Sackville does not, as I would have supposed, have facilities for Intelsat reception. So

the BBC feed I've been hearing is the one radiated on HF from Sackville. But where is the Intelsat receive facility and the uplink? Montreal? Presumably RCI programming is uplinked at Montreal for reception at Sackville. I have noted RCI as well as the Radio Japan feed they are now carrying not only on ANIK but also on Westar 3, Tr 2(H), 85.7 MHz. (A slight time shift on R Japan via RCI: English ½ hr is at 11:30 followed by ½ hr in Japanese. This is the only R Japan material to be heard transmitted on a North American "bird".)

A PHENOMENON COMMENCED a little over a week ago affecting the Single Channel per Carrier transmissions on Westar 3, Tr 1(H) and 2(H) that I am at a loss to understand; and it has been most disconcerting. A raspy hum has appeared on each of the carriers, resulting in considerably degraded listenability. Unfortunately this affects what had been my best BBCWS satellite feed (the one APR is putting up on 2(H), (75.6), as well as 80 + other carriers, modulated and unmodulated, on 1(H) and 2(H). Had been having a ball logging state networks and uplinked ground stations as well as national news services (AP, UPI, ABC, etc.). I had become a lister to the olde time radio on KCMO (73.1) and even the Wm. Rusher commentary on AP Radio. The Moody Broadcasting channels on W3/7(H) are unaffected. And SCPC signals on all other satellites continue as per usual. If this is a satellite problem, how are users of the affected services coping with it? I've noticed that since this problem started there has been no video on 3(H) - Ch. 5 - which had been used late afternoons and early evenings by CNN, New York. Could my problem be some sort of TI? Words from anyone with any expertise in this area offering an explanation would be most welcome. In any event, I continue to enjoy the many offerings of the Public Radio networks on Westar 4, Tr. 1(H) and 2(H), as well as some Mutual Network programming that could not otherwise be heard in this area (e.g., the long running "Reporters' Roundup"). Even with two Public Radio stations in this market, there is still much more NPR/APR programming to which I would not have access except from the satellite feeds. Have discovered "Pacifica Reports", "Radio Dialog", "New Voices", "Worldwide Jazz", "Monitor Radio" (recently made available locally), "Letter from London" (not the program by that name once on the BBC), "Thistle & Shamrock" (Celtic music), etc. At this moment, via satellite, I'm listening to an NPR program I have not been able to hear for several years: Ted Fleischaker's "Big Band Stand". Have not yet obtained a dbx device that is necessary for proper reception - the previously mentioned 321 E - X - P - A - N - D - E - R card, but have been taping a lot that can be given the dbx treatment on playback. The CBC are now offering an "American Edition" of "As It Happens" for American Public Radio release (W4/2H 66.0, 23:00 UTC). (Of course I get all of the releases of AIH on ANIK D, either on sub-carrier or SCPC.) And I can listen to "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" for whatever time zone I find the most convenient.

RUMORS CONTINUE TO ABOUND in regard to the "breaking" of the VideoCipher II descrambling device. It may have been done, but to what advantage - to whose advantage (if to anyone's) - remains to be seen. At the outset, M/A COM, alleging unbreakability, threw down the gauntlet to those who cannot resist a technical challenge. And I cannot fault anyone who takes up that challenge purely as an intellectual exercise. But the door has been opened for the unscrupulous to perpetrate scams and rip-offs with "black boxes" or "modified" VCIIs. Restoring the video is no problem with most currently used scrambling systems - VCII, OAK ORION, Telease MASST. And with a pornsat service like American EXXXstasy who really needs the sound? But, of course, we don't have a true descrambler unless the audio is also restored.... But whatever the situation with VC, the OAK ORION - the scrambling system used by Canadian Cancom and others - has definitely been broken by means of a "chip set" retrofittable to existing units. Going price of a "fixed" O O about $700. There are conflicting stories as to whether the "fix" can be defeated, thus insuring continued "security" of O O encoded transmissions. Probably the current "fix" can be overcome, but there could be cost and logistical problems. Despite illegalities involved in using "black boxes" or altered descramblers, if one's conscience permits, one can probably get away with it - SO LONG AS THERE ARE NO EXTANT RECORDS OF ONE'S PURCHASE OF SUCH A DEVICE - records that a "busted" dealer might have to turn over to the authorities. It remains to be seen with how much vigour programmers will attempt to seek out and prosecute users of illicit de-encrypting devices. There is a suspicion that the Cable/Programmer Monopoly may permit (may surreptitiously encourage) large numbers of "broken" VCIIs getting into the field in order that they may then go to Congress and say: "We tried to deal fairly with these people and look what they're doing - ripping us off. The only solution is either to outlaw the home TVRO altogether or permit them to be operated only under the auspices of - under terms and conditions imposed by - ourselves". No better state of affairs could obtain for those who would be the only dispensors of visual/aural entertainment and information in this country. And such solutions would no doubt be blessed by Mr Fowler and the FCC who, in their hearts, already consider these the most equitable solutions to the "backyard dish" problem.

There would never have been a "black box", "chip sets" - proliferating attempts to defeat the scramblers - perhaps ultimately uncontrollable - if the home TVRO community had been delt with by programmers in a manner obviously intended to be fair and accomodating instead of what was perceived as the opposite of that. There would have been no incentive to try to break a $50 descrambler or to "steal" programming priced at (or close to) the programmer's best wholesale price, available from a central clearing house or home TVRO equipment deal-

ers. (Of course, no matter how "cheap", there is still the question as to how much subjective value a particular video service has for one - even a "wholesale price" could be too much.) But those wholesale prices will probably increase as, with January deregulation, there will be dramatic increases in subscription rates to cable subscribers. These will be monopoly administered prices, as are the "retail" prices currently being offered to the home TVRO community. In the next few months we will see a pseudo-competetive market place in programming for the home TVRO community and attempts to get many more VCIIs in the field - lest Congress fail to perceive that "the market place is working".

UNITED VIDEO, the common carrier company that uplinks WGN, WPIX and KTVT, is to scramble these "superstations" and market them as a package to the home TVRO community - an act clearly in violation of the law currently regulating common carriers[?]; but the FCC chooses not to notice. Other irregularities have also been occurring or are alleged to have occurred: e.g., UV getting the Cubs games via a microwave link from WGN instead of off the air (VHF Ch. 9), inserting commercials different from those on Ch. 9. There have been many instances of "national advertisers" commercials appearing on UV's WGN in place of those of Chicagoland advertisers. But this is all apparently "good business" - and law should never be introduced as an impediment to that. And certainly - never - concern for the rights, the welfare, of the public.

Personally, I couldn't care less what happens to WGN: I never watch them (or WPIX or KTVT). But there is a principle to be upheld in opposing the scrambling of advertiser supported programming. (Would I be willing to see UV in probable violation of the law in their handling of the WGN signal - commercial substitutions - if they wouldn't scramble it? All they have to do - for me - is to continue to be a truck and not a seller of merchandise - not theirs - which is on the truck.) Still, it's the sub-carriers on the WGN transponder - especially WFMT - that I would find it incommoding to lose. When Eastern Microwave scrambled WOR, the sub-carrier services continued. But, as I understand it, UV have different plans for the present WGN sub-carrier services. A new method of delivering audio services called SCS has been devised. Essentially what is done is to reverse the positions of the "video" carrier and the sub-carriers. Conventionally, the sub-carriers are located above the video carrier, tunable in a range of approximately 5 to 8.5 MHz. But in the SCS method the sub-carriers are shifted to just above 5 MHz and down, thus putting most of them out of the range of the sub-carrier tuning facility in home TVRO receivers. Cable operators can thus be sold audio programming that can't be "pirated" by the home TVRO/RRO user. In this system the "video" carrier is unmodulated, resulting in an unlit monitor screen. Thus far I have located two transponders with SCS: Westar 5, Tr. 7H (Ch. 13), already carrying a number of the services that were on the WGN transponder (G1/3). WFMT has not yet been moved. The other transponder is 7(H) (Ch. 7) on Galaxy 2, where a couple of storecasting services can be heard above 5 MHz. ("Station KRO" - for Kroger.) An SCS adaptor, similar to the stereo receiving adaptors for satellite receivers - the difference being the tuning range - could easily be produced - and probably will be. My R70, of course, will tune the frequencies, but, even with the FM adaptor, the IF bandwidth would be too narrow. A "Rube Goldberg" latch up that might work is this: attach the sat receiver's unclamped baseband output to the R70 (for 0-5.5 MHz tuning), and then take the R70's 70 MHz IF output into the R7000 tuned to 70 MHz, wideband FM. Services could then be identified, but, of course, no stereo reception would be possible. The audio quality of the SCS services I can hear on the satellite receiver is quite good.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSERY OF THE CBC was celebrated with special programming, primarily on the weekend of November 1, 2. Most of the scheduled radio programs appeared, but were changed in content in accordance with the anniversery theme; e.g., "State of the Arts" presented a program they could have done in 1936. It was amusing to hear some contemporary critical opinion - so different from later estimations of the work and artists. The "Radio Show" looked 50 years into the future with the "Big Broadcast of 2036". A one hour "Air Farce" special was (needless to say) amusing. Archive material - tho' not enough for me (there never is) - was programmed. "Investigation of a Corporation Under Suspicion" allowed the CBC to have a little fun with their government overseers. The Sunday evening television program was something of a disappointment, being too much a promotion for current CBC programming (again, not enough olde stuff). (In the section devoted to past & present news persons why wasn't Mike Duffy mentioned?) An "Ideas" series, "Turning Points in Public Broadcasting: the CBC at 50", examined the Corporation's history, its achievements and its difficulties. I consider myself, situated in Kentucky, to be very fortunate in having access to to all CBC radio & television programming - "The Best on the Box". It would be interesting to compare the concept of public broadcasting in Canada with that in the U.S. (In the U.S. we have two concepts: the one which produced the charter by which PBS is supposed to operate, and the perversion of that concept by the encryptomaniacs currently in charge at PBS.) No doubt I like CBC radio/TV better than do most Canadians.

YES, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, the encryption equipment is in place at the PBS uplink facilities despite the terms under which the PBS is obliged to operate, which is, to provide a broadcasting service to ALL the people by means of the mode of transmission that can best bring that about. Satellite transmission has beautifully brought this about. But PBS will tell you viewers who directly take advantage of it are no better than telephone wire tappers - criminals!

MULTI POINT-TO-POINT TRANSMISSION via satellite is, today, the cheapest, most technologically advanced means for radio/television networks and others who require such a distribution system to reach their affiliates (ground stations or cable companies) or other specific locations. Though very effective for the intended purpose, satellite transmission is not directed just to the appropriate points but to all points between. Users of satellite relay, whatever their intentions, are engaged in de facto broadcasting. Much to the horror and disgust of some. We have mentioned this before. But there is an emerging technology which would restore the desired "security" not wholly possible even with the scrambling of satellite transmissions. That technology, of course, is fibre optics. Chuck Till, GA, has some words about f o and the future of television transmission:

> RIB readers should understand the impact of fiber optic cables on future video transmission. Fiber is being installed almost everywhere in the public telephone networks for both short-hauls and long-hauls. Transmission rates, per fiber, pf 500 megabits/sec are getting common. Researchers are developing multi-gigabit/sec systems and there appears to be room for improvement after that.
>
> Keep in mind that most long-haul fiber installations use more than one fiber. Most of the cost is arranging the right-of-way and digging the trench, independent of how many fibers go into the dirt.
>
> Broadcast quality video can be transmitted digitally at 45 mb/s with converters of modest cost. There is some optimum transmission rate since transmission cost and converter cost move in opposite directions as the transmission rate varies. But if 45 mb/s becomes standard, the capacity of one fiber cable becomes roughly equivalent to that of a 48 transponder satellite, assuming a 2 gigabits/s fiber system.
>
> Of course, fiber optics don't require station keeping or expensive launches. There wouldn't be any solar transit events or any Captain Midnights either. That's my point! Reception of the video [or any other type of transmission] would be tightly controllable in a fiber environment. Encryption would be useless, then, since the video would be impossible to intercept.
>
> In five or ten years, therefore, perhaps the only domestic video still on satellite will be expressly intended for [home] TVRO. Encryption as an issue would then become a simple matter of free video vs. not free, from the TVRO viewpoint. Kiss everything else that's interesting on the satellites good-bye.

As soon as the economics of the situation indicate, Chuck, I'm sure we'll see all programming services (and other satellite users) who want "privacy" going to f o. The Cable Companies will replace their antequated copper wire technology with f o. But satellites will still be required for intercontinental communication - depending on the amount of time that will be required to lace the oceans with underseas f o cables. And, in the absence of any sort of physical conductor, satellite transmission is the only means of delivering high fidelity video and audio over great distances, of serving an entire continent (or more) from one outlet. At least with f o there is a compatibility between the physical privacy of the system and law regarding security or privacy of communication. Any non-wireless mode of transmission requires an overt act of intrusion to gain access to it: intercepting ground point-to-point microwave - though being wireless - is a similar act of intrusion. And yet there are those who try to make law - or interpret law - in ways that are incompatible with the physical reality of RF transmissions from satellites and terrestrial HF, VHF and UHF transmitters. Vide the recently enacted Electronic Communications Privacy Act. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT - OR ANY AGENCY THEREOF - DECLARE (OR ATTEMPT TO DECLARE) ILLEGAL THE RECEPTION BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN (FOR HIS PRIVATE LISTENING/VIEWING) OF ANY RF TRANSMISSION RECEIVABLE ON EQUIPMENTS SOLD IN THE OPEN (PUBLIC/CONSUMER) MARKETPLACE - THAT IS INFAMY! AN INFAMY NO RESPONSIBLY FREE MAN CAN PERMIT TO BE IMPOSED UPON HIM! TO PLACE ANY PORTION OF THE RF SPECTRUM "OFF LIMITS" ESTABLISHES A PRECEDENT FOR PLACING ANY OTHER PORTION - ANY TRANSMISSION IN THAT PORTION - OFF LIMITS (I've probably said this before, but it bears reiteration) - AND THAT IS IMPERMISSIBLE!

NOT SATELLITE NEWS BUT NEWS RECEIVED THEREFROM: According to a report on the BBC-TV "9 O'Clock News" (6 Nov.), R Beijing are no longer broadcasting to the USSR in reversed Russian, which the listener was expected to record then play backwards to restore intelligibility. R B broadcasts are now in the normal tape direction, without jamming, as was demonstrated at Caversham, a listening room being shown with receivers in operation (close up of a beautiful Racal).

11/11 ["This is sound and sync from Rome"]. Six of the transponders on Satcom 4 are now devoted to the most rapidly growing satellite delivered programming: the shopping service; there must be 10 or more altogether. Evidently popular, these services obviously can be useful, especially to people living in isolated locations, but I don't see how anyone can sit and watch this huckstering for any length of time. A home shopping service via teletexed catalogues would seem to me much more preferable to the hard sell. Speaking of S4, Family Radio (WYFR and VOFC) feeds are to be found on Tr. 7. The Liberty Broadcasting Network is the video on this Tr. along with the SCPC feeds. Evidently a connection between LB and FR.

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO OUTLAW SCRAMBLING? A joke, surely? In any event, home TVRO advocate Chuck Dawson, leader of the "435" (the TVRO "army") and operator of K-SAT satellite radio (T3/18 6.48), has drafted such an amendment which was presented to the "army" members at a meeting on Saturday last in Arlington, VA. In essence, the

amendment would make it unconstitutional to scramble audio and video transmissions on the public airwaves, with the exception of military traffic and other transmissions involving national security. Indeed, that's all it says. Presented in the context of a First Amendment issue, as preamble, a couple of court decisions which contain statements as to the function and purpose of the First Amendment are cited: 1) The First Amendment is intended "to foster the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources [which is] essential to the welfare of the public" (from A.P. vs. U.S. Govt. 362US 1/20/1945); and 2) "It is the purpose of the First Amendment to preserve an unhibited market place of ideas in which the truth will ultimately prevail, rather than to countenance monopolization of that market" (from Red Lion Broadcasting [WINB] vs. FCC 395, 367 & 390US 1969). Thus we have "A Constitutional Amendment proposed by the supporters of the free flow of information":

> "Whereas, the public airwaves are a non-renewable public resource, and
>
> "Whereas, the development of technology for transmission through the airwaves has been subsidized and regulated by the public, and
>
> "Whereas, the public's right to be informed and the free flow of information is intended by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, it is proposed by the undersigned Citizens of the United States that the following be added to the Constitution of the United States of America:
>
> "Except in matters of national Security, no user of the airwaves shall cause any transmitted signal to be scrambled, encrypted or encoded."
>
> [This is followed by signature lines]

(Monitored from K-SAT satellite radio, 12 Nov.)

Does the proposal of this amendment have a serious intent, or is it just being done, as a movie industry person understands it, "for effect"? "Of course", this amendment has about as much of a chance of passage as has a fish for survival in the Rhine River these days. That does not mean that I am not in total agreement with it, for I am, probably having expressed similar sentiments more than once: WHO HATH NOT ANY INTEREST IN SERVING THE PUBLIC ENTIRE - INDEED, WOULD WITHOLD THEIR SERVICE, WHICH IS BEING TRANSMITTED ON THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES, TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE OR ANY PORTION OF THE PUBLIC (BY ENCRYPTION OR WHATEVER) - SHALL BE DENIED THE USE OF THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF ITS SERVICE. Let the HBOs, the "pay-per-views" etc. go to fibre optics or whatever. Let the commercial networks and PBS (the so-called "PBS"), who are now in a position, via satellite, to meet their responsibilities to serve all of the people wherever they may be (it is mandated in regard to PBS), get off the "birds" if they are so determined to have "security" (security from whom?). Others, then, may make use of this marvelous medium. To encourage this, I would recommend changing communications law so that existing radio and television stations wishing a national audience could uplink themselves. A licensing procedure for broadcasting from satellite just like the one for broadcasting from a terrestrial transmitter would obtain. The satellite transponders could become the homes of true broadcasting services operating in the public interest instead of the de facto broadcasters up there now who consider themselves to be "closed circuits".

IMPROVED VIDEO RECEPTION from the Mexican Morelos 1 satellite has been noted, primarily XHITM on Ch. 2. Non-standard downlink frequencies and spot-beaming have made Morelos reception very poor. A receiver with fine tuning (RIT) is necessary for the best results. But Ch. 2, tho' heavily sparkled, is now watchable. Appears to offer an interesting schedule of educational, cultural and general entertainment programming. Have located SCPC activity on Morelos: XEW, Mexico City, is up on Ch. 4, 79.1 IF. There is also a stereo service on the same transponder @ 78.4-78.6.

BULLETIN...BULLETIN...BULLETIN: "THE CHIPS HAVE HIT THE FAN!" The "official" announcement of the breaking of the M/A COM Video Cipher II was announced on K-SAT Radio on the evening of 28 Nov. by Chuck Dawson of K-SAT and Shaun Kenny of the home TVRO dedicated weekly television program, "Boresight". There are three approaches to wiping the viper: the "black box", which is a device intended totally to replace a VCII. Such devices have successfully recovered video; but audio recovery appears very difficult and expensive - so the bb may not be a practical approach at this time. The second and third approaches involve the "fixing" of a VCII by either a "hardware" or "software" change. Intensive research has been (and is) underway in both areas. The K-SAT story concerned a software change making use of what is being called the "retribution chip" ("they screwed us so we'll screw them") or "The Three Musketeers" - i.e., the "one for all and all for one" chip; so called because, by means of it, if one is authorised to receive one service, one will receive all other VCII encrypted services - for free. Presumably one would subscribe to the cheapest service available, then provide that authorisation number to the chip supplier. Kenney has long been championing a VCII break as a "bargaining chip" in negotiations with M/A COMM and the programmers to secure something approaching a fair and rational pricing structure for the home TVRO community. Dawson's public stand is one of total opposition to illicit descrambling devices, believing (or at least hoping) that the home TVRO industry can be rescued in Washington by means of legislation or actions of investigative agencies (the Justice Department, the FCC) - in my view an unlikely occurrence. Large scale distribution of the "retribution chip" would unquestionably pose a considerable problem for the programmer-cable monopoly: their product could be rendered worthless.

But those dispensers via satellite of this most precious television programming will hardly acquiesce in the introduction of thousands of devices facilitating illicit reception of it. A beneficiary would be the descrambler manufacturer, who could then move product (to be altered) in significant numbers. But using and selling either a "black box" or an altered manufactured decoder is strictly illegal. Most responsible home TVRO industry leaders and spokesmen in no way condone their use/sale. John (Captain Midnight) MacDougall, appering on K-SAT Radio, in the light of his own difficulties, has advised anyone considering using an illicit device to take due note of the possible consequences. One might get away with it; but it's all a messy business that really should never have come about: it was bred by a non-competetive market place and monopoly arrogance. There are those who have voiced suspicion that The Monopoly itself is behind the breaking of the allegedly unbreakable, producing a magnificent flypaper on which the home TVRO community can ensnare itself.

Word has it that Cancom (the Canadian pay TV service) have effectuated a re-securing of the Oak-Orion Decoder which had been defeated by means of a "magic chip". An O O with the chip had been selling for about $700. Note that one of the Cancom channels, Detroit PBS station WTVS, has been in the clear while fund raising is in progress by WTVS. When this happened last year, some TVRO people, who did not realize that this is a normally scrambled channel, to their later dismay, contributed to WTVS. Thus the ethics of "Public Television".

AND DESPITE THE SCRAMBLEMANIA which, presumably, shall have pretty much run its course by the end of 1987, and if the having of a private satellite receiving terminal remains legal, and if the recently enacted ECPA does not prove an impediment, the having of a "dish" by the DXer/communications hobbyist can still be rewarding. If one has the money for the equipment and the space to install it, international satellite DXing can be very rewarding. So what could have been the greatest delivery system ever devised to bring information and entertainment to all of the people by means of their airwaves may at least survive for some persons as a somewhat esoteric but exciting hobby.

AMERICAN PUBLIC RADIO have been running some auditions of BBCWS news programmes (first noted on 1 Dec.) on W4/2H 74.2 @ 20:15 and 67.4 @ 01:15. Since these are wideband channels quality is good (with an expander it would be excellent). The full time (or near full time) BBCWS feeds on Anik D and Westars 4 & 3 are all narrowband. I was interested in Will Martin's remarks in RIB 114 about APR distribution of BBCWS programming - news only. I think it's unfortunate that APR stations can retransmit only BBC news shows and none of the other outstanding programming that it would be so nice to hear in high fidelity. Does "Letter from America" count among the news programs? Guess it would be stretching things too much to include "Two Cheers..." under "news". I, too, hope the BBC will not consider the limited APR distribution of their news only programming a reason for further reducing (or eliminating) their HF transmissions to North America.

Am at the moment (this 4 Dec.) listening to the 40 minute noontime news programme on BBC domestic radio via the BBC channel on Anik D (1 87.1). World Service was taken down @ 13:30. Evidently WS programming is not necessarily up on this channel unless being intended for Sackville relay. Daytime drama is still a staple of the "home" service - actually the Radio 4 portion of it, which is what I'm hearing. This programming can be interrupted for newsfeeds to CBC Radio.

AND SPEAKING OF CBC Radio, I was disturbed to hear of the possibility that, because of funding problems, it may be necessary to close down the stereo services, which I have come to enjoy, and have been a major reason for having a satellite receiver with stereo capability. On CBC TV last Sunday (30 Nov.) during "Wayne & Schuster" there was an amusing satire on Barbara Frum and "The Journal".

AMONG THE RAREST of radio programs are those devoted to poetry. But I've found two on Public Radio. The New York Poetry Center has a program @ 20:30 on Tuesdays on the 68.3 IF channel. "A Poem to You" is on Fridays @ 20:30 on 64.9. Might be on a PR station in your area. Have found a plethora of Public Radio programming I did not know existed; no single station could carry it all. Wish someone could provide me a complete NPR/APR schedule. A diverting program I caught in progress but have not heard again was called "Rebels Without Applause".

THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE are now transmitting in an encrypted mode on Westar 4, Ch. 23: this despite persistent denials on the part of PBS that they have scrambling plans. Really thrills me to tune in and see my tax money and contributions to PBS at work! PBS' story now is that they're using VCII technology to transmit digital audio; evidently just an incidental accident resulting in scrambled video. A recent statement by PBS to the FCC, as read on K-SAT radio, came across as a mishmash of lies and contradictions. We may expect fulltime scrambling on all transponders as soon as affiliates have descramblers in place. All or mostly paid for by my and your money. For PBS have cast their lot with The Monopoly while hoping, presumably, to hoodwink Congress into appropriating funding and the public into making their donations. If PBS are to pursue policies, operating strategies, they have been developing in recent years then they no more merit public funding than do NBC/ABC/CBS. Let them return to the public treasury their misspent moneys - which could be applied toward developing a true "public broadcasting service".

ANIK D2 (111.5 degrees W) is now active. Video observed on Ch. 11; data on Trs.3 & 4. CBC Radio (W. Arctic, Mackenzie) (SCPC) on Tr. 21.

LISTENER INSIGHTS ON PROGRAMMING

ALBANIA (Joe Obenberger, Highwood IL) Every once in a while [some 5 years ago while I was stationed with the Army in Stuttgart, West Germany] I used to hear Radio Tirana "jammed" with an English-language loop tape that would keep repeating jokes about Radio Tirana -- and, I got to hear the English "Voice of the Islamic Revolution" from Tehran during the hostage crisis -- I really miss European reception conditions here!

BELGIUM (Alan Roe, England, Dec WDXC Contact)

BELGISCHE RADIO EN TELEVISIE

BRT

WERELDOMROEP

I was sorry to see that the BRT programmes were cut by over a half (from 55 to 25 minutes) a few weeks ago. However it has to be said the results were not as bad as feared. Few of the feature programmes have been lost, although they are a little shorter. The music interludes between features have largely been dropped, altho with more 'chatty' links than we used to get. The overall effect is of a more 'punchy' format, moving along at a brisk tho still friendly pace. I miss the more relaxed 55 minute programmes, although I often didn't have time to stay the full 55 minutes, but the 25-minute formats are recommended listening.

BULGARIA (via Rich D'Angelo, PA) Radio Sofia winter programme schedule in English [to Europe & North America; Africa is different]: Mon-Fri EVENTS & DEVELOPMENTS. Mon SCIENCE AND ECONOMY, SPORTS ROUND-UP. Tue LIFESTYLE, CULTURAL SCENE. Wed ASPECTS OF COOPERATION, YOUTH CORNER, TOP OF BULGARIAN POPS. Thu MIDWEEK MAILBAG. Fri DX PROGRAMME. Sat HISTORY CLUB, ACROSS THE MAP OF BULGARIA, THE OLD TREASURE BOOK, SCANNING THE PAGES, MUSIC FROM BULGARIA [perhaps alternating once a month rather than weekly?]. Sun ANSWERING YOUR LETTERS, SPECTRUM, TOPICAL STUDIO.

Times & frequencies: 0730-08 UTC 9700 11720. 1930-20 11720 6070 7155. 2130-22 6070 7155 7115. 2230-2330 & 00-01 6070 11720. 04-05 7115.

4, DRAGAN TZANKOV BLVD., SOFIA, BULGARIA. TELEX: 22305; 22557; 22558. TEL. 8541

RS RADIO SOFIA

CANADA (Ottawa Citizen 6 Dec 86 via Copeland)

CBC, announcers arrive at tentative settlement

By Bert Hill
Citizen staff writer

The CBC reached a tentative contract settlement with one of its largest unions Friday, hoping it will clear the way for peaceful settlements with other unions.

After 13 continuous days of talks, the 2,400-member Canadian Union of Public Employees announced it had reached agreement on job security and other issues.

Details of the proposed contract are being withheld pending a ratification vote next week, said Robert Paterson, president of the union's broadcast division.

"We're prepared to recommend acceptance of this package, which contains improvements in areas we were most concerned about, that of job security and jurisdiction," he told reporters.

"The financial settlement was not as much as we might have wished but under the current economic situation at the CBC, I guess was the best we could negotiate."

Paterson refused, however, to comment on how CUPE's agreement might affect the future of three CBC union contracts which remain unsettled.

He said the job security clause will allow the corporation to make deals with private-sector producers to use CBC staff and premises.

In a bid to reduce costs in the face of heavy budget cuts, the CBC has said it wants to use lower-cost private sector producers to create up to 50 per cent of programing.

Paterson said the new arrangement should protect the jobs of CUPE members.

The CBC employees will get pay increases of three per cent, two per cent and three per cent over a three-year contract retroactive to June, 1985, when the current contract expired, plus an improved dental plan.

CUPE represents 2,400 announcers, production assistants, clerical and professional employees.

The CBC still has to negotiate contracts with 3,400 anglophone and francophone cameramen and other technicians represented by different unions, and 600 journalists represented by the Canadian Wire Service Guild.

However, the issues facing the CUPE bargaining unit and the technicians are similar and the tentative deal could create a pattern for settlements.

CBC spokesmen Richard Chambers said "the CUPE settlement certainly is a positive step in achieving a working environment with unions in the corporation."

The settlement was reached after marathon bargaining sessions which began last week and continued through the weekend when a strike that could have crippled CBC's coverage of the Grey Cup and Liberal convention was widely anticipated.

During most of the negotiations, the CBC demanded major concessions from all its unions because of heavy budget cuts ordered by the Mulroney government.

The unions resisted the demands and the growing confrontation threatened to cripple programming on the English and French networks of the radio and television service.

Though no formal talks are scheduled, new negotiations are expected between the corporation and its 2,200 cameramen and other technicians represented by the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, and a separate union representing 1,000 similar employees who work for Radio-Canada, the French-language arm of the CBC.

The talks broke off last week with NABET still opposed to CBC proposals to force surplus employees to move within their region to save jobs.

Contract talks between the CBC and 600 journalists represented by the Canadian Wire Service Guild were scheduled to resume Sunday in Toronto.

(CBC Radio Guide) IDEAS, Mon-Fri 9:05 pm local on CBC Radio = mostly AM, some FM, satellite! and SW 6160 from Vancouver and St John's. Jan series final episodes are: Mons THE ISLAMIC PRISM, Tues THE FOUR SEASONS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU, Weds THE VICTORIANS: THE BIRTH OF DESIRE AND THE DEATH OF INNOCENCE, Thurs LIVING IN THE PAST, Fris NEW IDEAS IN ECOLOGY & ECONOMICS

FEB. 2 AMERIKA: BEHIND THE SCENES/1
The new television mini-series AMERIKA takes place in 1998, ten years after an unopposed Russian takeover of the United States. IDEAS visits the real American towns where the drama was filmed to talk about the impact of this $30 million TV "civics lesson".

FEB. 3 AMERIKA: BEHIND THE SCENES/2
Hall of AMERIKA was filmed in Canada "to save money". IDEAS reports the reaction of Canadian actors, officials and the public: is AMERIKA patriotic propaganda, warmongering, or just an entertaining soap-opera?

FEB. 4 CIGARETTES
Once hailed as a medicinal aid for ulcers, asthma and the plague, the inhaling of tobacco into the lungs is now known as a health risk and is increasingly socially condemned. Yet many people still smoke. Why?
Toronto writer Barbara Nichol

FEB. 5 PASTERNAK
During the worst Stalinist oppression in the thirties, many Russians expected Boris Pasternak to disappear. If not today, then tomorrow or the next day. But he didn't disappear, and as long as he was there, Russian poetry would survive. In the west, Pasternak became famous only after the publication of **Dr. Zhivago** in 1957. What followed—public vilification by the Soviet authorities and the press; a forced refusal of the Nobel Prize, and his death in disgrace—is the subject of a tragic drama played out on the international stage. Pasternak grew up during the golden age of Russian art, in the years just before the Revolution. As a young man, he showed remarkable gifts as a painter and composer. The subtle and original way in which he incorporated both visual and acoustic elements into his poetry make it compellingly original. We look at Boris Pasternak in the context of the wars, revolutions and terrible sufferings of his native country during the first half of the twentieth century. What emerges is a complex, fascinating, eccentric, and deeply human figure.
Part 1: **Stalen Harmony, 1890-1910.**
Part 2: **A Cloudburst of Light, 1910-1920.**
Part 3: **The Years of Terror, 1920-1948.**
Part 4: **The Zhivago Affair, 1948-1960.**
Toronto writer Alvyn Austin

JAN. 29 / **FEB. 5**

JAN. 30 / **FEB. 6** MARRIAGES OF TRUE MINDS
In an age in which the institution of marriage has met with so much bad press, this series is a reminder that things can be different. Relationships between men and women can be—and have been—sources of creativity, inspiration and mutual benefit. From the tragic union of Héloise and Abelard in the 12th century to the influential collaboration of Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, these programs celebrate relationships in which the sum of the parts, so to speak, is greater than the whole: Part 1: **Logic and Love**: a dramatic re-telling of the story of Héloise and Abelard. Part 2: **Poetic Passion and Creative Harmony**: Percy Shelley and Mary Godwin, Frederic Chopin and George Sand—an exploration of romantic creativity. Part 3: **Intimacy and Inspiration**: the story of two of the most memorable couples in the North American cultural scene: Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas; Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe; Robert Lowell, Part 4: **Commitment and Compassion**: Simone de Beauvoir and Jean Paul Sartre.
Toronto writer and broadcaster Paul Kennedy

FEB. 9 SAVE THE CHILDREN
AND HELL THE EMPIRE
Between 1869 and 1930, 100,000 British waifs were sent to work as domestic servants in Canada; to work as child labour on Canadian farm hands. They were sent, according to Dr. Thomas Barnardo, one of the key organizers of the movement, to relieve the overcrowded centres of city life, ease congested labour markets and lessen the burdens of taxation. Their move would confer upon them "unspeakable blessings." We hear survivors of the movement and the testimony of those who started, ran, supported and criticized it.
Halifax writer Heather Laskey

FEB. 10 TAKING YOUR OWN MEDICINE
Spiraling medical costs and growing disenchantment with traditional drug-based therapies call for a new approach to health care. We explore the roots of the movement for self-care and assess it as an alternative.
Victoria writer Judith Alldritt McDowell

FEB. 11 JADE IN THE MOSAIC: THE EAST ASIAN EXPERIENCE IN CANADA
From the 1850s, Chinese and Japanese came to work as domestic servants. But in spite of neglect, and, at times, persecution, they established roots here: "Chinatowns" and "Japantowns" sprang up from the West Coast to St. John's. Since World War II, the East Asian community has grown and become a sophisticated mosaic. We observe the history of East Asians in Canada, their present and future.
Toronto writer Alvyn Austin

FEB. 12 / **FEB. 19**

FEB. 13 / **FEB. 20**

FEB. 16 / **FEB. 17** THREE SCORE AND TEN
Why do our bodies wear out and die? We examine the biochemistry of aging and new research to fight it.
Calgary writer Nancy Johnson Smith

FEB. 18

FEB. 23 COUNTING THE COSTS:
THREE MILE ISLAND/1
This documentary reconstruction follows events that began in the predawn hours of March 28, 1979, and eventually added $130 billion to U.S. electric utility bills.

FEB. 24 COUNTING THE COSTS:
THREE MILE ISLAND/2
The accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant is dramatized from eyewitness accounts, 50,000 pages of official testimony, and 5 post-accident inquiries.

FEB. 25 COUNTING THE COSTS:
FROM IDAHO TO IRAQ
In 1961 a control rod from the exploding SL-1 reactor impales an operator on the ceiling of the reactor building. Nuclear contamination is so severe it takes a week to remove the corpse.

FEB. 26 COUNTING THE COSTS:
FROM CHALK RIVER TO CHERNOBYL
The world's first nuclear accident happened in Canada in 1952. In 1986 the fiery destruction of the atomic reactor at Chernobyl shows how widespread the effects of a serious accident can be.

FEB. 27 COUNTING THE COSTS: FROM DARLINGTON TO DECOMMISSIONING
While Ontario Hydro continues to build its $11 billion Darlington reactor, other electric utilities are planning to take their plants out of service. Who will pay, now and in the future?

MAR. 2 CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE
The crisis in North American farming begins with culture as well as economics. Agriculture used to encompass a way of life. It meant stewardship of the soil and was a practical science and an art. But with the rise of factory farming, farms turned into factories and pushed farmers into assembly-line products. "Efficiency" and "productivity" have replaced traditional values and turned agriculture into agribusiness. Food has lost much of its social significance and has little worth until it is processed, packaged and sold. And as more and more farmers go under, we are discovering that the values of industry are not enough to sustain agriculture as a healthy activity—economically, ecologically or socially. We examine the roots of the current farm crisis and look at alternatives which would put culture back into agriculture and restore farming as a careful and profitable tending of the land.
Writer and broadcaster Carole Giangrande

MAR. 3 A CANADIAN IN PARIS
In 1928 seventeen-year-old John Glassco set sail for Paris in search of literary fame. His **Memoirs of Montparnasse** is a poet's record of his youth in the cultural capital of the world. Variously described as "the best book of prose by a Canadian that I have ever read" (Louis Dudek) and "more humane and actual than Hemingway" (Malcolm Ross), it is a Canadian's struggle for cultural identity and freedom.
Mavis Gallant Read (Leon Edel), the biographer of Canada's literary history.

MAR. 4 SOL PLAATJE'S SOUTH AFRICA
Statesman, journalist, preacher, ethnographer Sol Plaatje was a founder of the South African Native National Congress in 1912, and toured the world advocating racial equality. This radio portrait of Plaatje was prepared by **Joanne Cavanzo** from his novels, journals and speeches.

MAR. 5 NELSON MANDELA'S SOUTH AFRICA
Leader of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela was jailed for life in 1962, convicted of sabotage. From prison he's led the ANC in its resistance to apartheid in South Africa. This radio portrait of Mandela is constructed from his own writings, and stars actor James Earl Jones.

MAR. 6 RETURN OF THE GODDESS
The Sibylline Books were the sacred records of the statements of the ancient Sibyl priestesses who foretold the future and passed judgement by ancient Goddess law. Suppressed in the early Christian period, the wisdom written in them lives with us today as newly emerging information about ancient Goddess images and beliefs affects women working in the arts, literature, film and dance, psychology, ecology, politics, health care and even architecture. Using feminist analyses of theology, women have also been reshaping the attitudes and practices of traditional religions. Among the participants in these IDEAS programs are Marion Zimmer Bradley, author of **Mists of Avalon**; architect Mimi Lobell; psychiatrist Jean Shinoda Bolen; author Marilyn Sibyl Schlamm; author of **The Spiral Dance**; historian Merlin Stone and Naomi Goldenberg, author of **The Changing of the Gods**. The first program will celebrate the reappearance of the Goddess in contemporary visual arts. Program two will be about the emergence of Goddess lore in literature. Program three will detail the development of new ideas in theology, psychology and sociology. And the fourth program will consider the effects that the return of the Goddess has had on women working in history, politics and ecology.
Merlin Stone, author of **When God Was a Woman.**

MAR. 9 / **MAR. 10** / **MAR. 11** AN IMPERIAL TRAGEDY:
THE JAMAICAN UPRISING OF 1865
The suppression of a black rebellion in 1865 raises questions we still have to answer: what place does martial law have in civilized society? And where does responsibility for collective misery and poverty lie? An IDEAS dramatization by **Joanne Cavanzo.**

MAR. 12 WILLIAM BLAKE:
PROPHET OF THE NEW AGE
William Blake lived from 1757 to 1827. Poet, painter, engraver, visionary, he created a new form of thought and expression in the arts, yet was virtually ignored in his day. He was a passionate polemicist and argued against the philosophical forebearers of modern, scientific empiricism: "Man brings all he has; or can he has nothing in the world with him," he said. "Man is born like a garden, ready planted and sown." Blake did not seek a reality "out there," but in the inner landscape of the imagination. Mental life alone was real, and truth was discovered not by breaking reality down into its parts, but by an act of the imagination in which the invisible became visible. The 20th century has rescued him from obscurity. His ideas are both timeless and contemporary, and he saw, with prophetic vision, the nature of modern society.
Writer and broadcaster David Cayley

MAR. 13

MAR. 16 / **MAR. 17** COURT OF IDEAS:
CLEOPATRA VS. AUGUSTUS CAESAR
Cleopatra has suffered at the hands of history. Usually portrayed as a bubble-headed sex object, she was a woman of charm, intellect and political acumen. She finally gets her day in court.
A. Trevor Hodge, Carleton University

MAR. 18 IDEAS IN THE NEWS
Behind the headlines are concepts and assumptions which this regular IDEAS feature will analyze and explain.
Writer and broadcaster Carol Off

MAR. 19 / **MAR. 20**

MAR. 23 / **MAR. 24** THE CRUSADES: AN ARAB VIEW
It has been almost 900 years since the First Crusade to the Holy Land, but the Crusades left a reservoir of bitterness and hostility towards Christianity and European civilization which continues to shape relations between the Arab world and the west. The Crusades and their place in the cultural memory and intellectual traditions of the Arab world are presented through music, poetry and literature.
Anthropologist Jeanne Cannizzo

MAR. 25 URBAN LEGENDS
Everybody knows at least one: the poodle in the microwave, the spider in the hairdo, the vanishing hitchhiker. **Matthew Church** investigates the urban legend, the folk tale of modern times. How do these stories spread and why? What do they reveal about Canadian society today?

MAR. 26 / **MAR. 27**

C H I N A (gh) Since this RIB was not out before the beginning of January, but DX LISTENING DIGEST #11 was, Radio Beijing January previews appeared there; and at presstime for this page, February previews had not arrived--and may never judging from previous years, perhaps due to lunar new year holidays. Late-January previews in full, however:

中华人民共和国
国际广播电台
RADIO BEIJING (PEKING) OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Sun 25 Jan CHINA ANTHOLOGY--China is credited with the invention of fireworks. It has become a tradition in China to hold firework displays on holidays and festivals. Chinese fireworks also are exported to many other countries. As a matter of fact, at the International Fireworks Festival last June, Chinese fireworks won first prize. We delve into the history of fireworks as well as its recent development. MUSIC ALBUM--Many RB listeners will have heard our programmes on the instruments of the Chinese orchestra. But there's a good deal more to be said about the ways these instruments are used in combination. LISTENERS' LETTERBOX--as China is a socialist country, her system of ownership is that of a socialist type. Under that system, the land is owned by the public. Private buying and selling of land is forbidden. However, the country does allocate land to farmers and other land users. On this edition, we bring you more information on the policy regarding allocation and leasing of land. [At least in South Florida, I still find the 0830 & 0930 transmission on 9700 for the South Pacific much more audible and reliable than those for eastern North America! -gh]

C U B A (BBC "Radio Newsreel," 1500Z 27/12 via dpn) President Castro of Cuba has announced austerity measures to take effect in the new year. Fares on public transport are to be doubled, electricity is to go up [in price] by 40%, and there are to be new restrictions on the use of government vehicles. This report [is] by the BBC Latin America correspondent, Robin Dilkes [sp?]:

"These measures were foreshadowed three weeks ago when President Castro told the Communist Party Congress that the people had to prepare for difficulties. Even so, the steep price increases are likely to come as a shock -- and that's the very effect the president wants. His purpose is not only to save precious foreign exchange, but also to jolt Cubans into being more productive. He's regularly scolded the nation for waste, indiscipline and corruption. And now the Cuban news agency quotes him as using a Biblical reference in saying that 'the years of lean cattle' should serve to teach Cubans to be more efficient and thrifty, to eradicate negligence and other bad habits surviving from pre-revolutionary times. The measures are designed to have a very direct impact on everyday life in Cuba. As well as higher fares and fuel charges, the package reportedly includes cuts in television transmissions and in the time allowed for recreation, sports and workers' meetings. As well as urging internal reform, President Castro again blamed external problems for Cuba's difficulties. [In this connection,] he listed the 1986 drop in oil prices, which meant that Cuba earns less for re-exporting the oil it receives from the Soviet Union, the drop in the price of sugar and [the drop in] the value of the US dollar. It's all said to have added up to a halving of Cuba's foreign-exchange earnings and its capacity to buy abroad -- from 12 [sic] to 600 million dollars. Cuba has also felt the squeeze this year from its patron, the Soviet Union, [the leadership of] which rebuffed President Castro's request for a subsidy by not improving the terms of the barter deal involving Cuba sugar and Soviet oil.

dpn: I transcribed this because it mentions cuts in television monies, but this scrivener feels the urge to comment. There's some mighty sloppy reportage in here, BBC: In no way is "600 million" half of "12," and I don't think that a wish for newsy crypticality should result in some of the sloppy sentence constructions in this report, synecdoche notwithstanding. And if you import something only to sell it overseas, you're not "re-exporting" it! Talk about moiderin' the Queen's English...

gh: Don't you believe the headlines on the next page. AP and WHO blew it. Though he was not monitoring at the time, Ron Schatz investigated later and determined that what actually happened was: Radio Taíno did stay on late that night on 1160 kHz, as it has several times before. Fearing a repeat of the late-August multiple-frequency English experiment of several years ago, the FCC wanted to check the same frequencies used then, notably 1040, and asked domestic stations to close down periodically. With WHO off and its listeners requested to look for something else, naturally something else was audible on 1040, but there is no evidence it was a high-power Cuban outlet, as the longer article admits. Much ado about nothing. Then, on Thursday, December 11 (UTC 12th) around 0030 I noticed Taíno still on the air but on 2320 kHz (2nd harmonic) covering an apparently live speech with occasional interrup-

tions for summaries in English. This event proved to be carried on almost all Cuban networks except Reloj, and much poorer audio from some of them, minus English, was found on two more harmonics, 2280 and 2440, both often heard subsequently with regular programming. I informed Ron Schatz that something was up and we started scanning the MW band and to our surprise also found the Taíno coverage on some other frequencies--it was difficult to single out since it differed from the other networks only in the occasional English commentary, too brief to allow all channels to be checked during one break. There may also have been more that were blocked by local interference, but we found it on 570, 620 and 1380. The event was about over by 0130; it had been a speech by a Communist Youth official direct from the plaza outside the US Interests Section, to protest alleged airspace violations of Cuba by a US spyplane [an event, even if trumped up, which received precious little attention on US media]. We heard no announcement of the frequencies, but it was said that it was 'transmitted to the whole country' maintaining the usual Taíno premise of a domestic/tourist service in English and accounting for the additional frequencies. On 2320/1160 there was a bit of music fill until off around 0140; 1380 went off at 0144. It was more than an hour later before 570 came back on with its usual network Reloj. This seemingly more significant--at least it happened--event than the previous one apparently received no attention whatsoever from the paranoid US mediumwave broadcasting community or the FCC.

Cuban station strong in Iowa

(via David R Alpert, NY) ELECTRONIC MEDIA *December 8, 1986*

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — WHO-AM radio listeners suddenly found themselves hearing Spanish music, courtesy of the Cuban government and much to the chagrin of station officials and federal authorities.

"I've received about 18 to 20 calls from listeners in Oskaloosa, Omaha (Neb.) and a couple other towns," said Dan Reed, WHO's technical director. "They said they could hear bing-bang, Spanish-type music loud and clear."

The source eventually was traced to a Cuban government station that boosted its power to cover North America to honor the 30th anniversary of the start of Fidel Castro's revolution, WHO General Manager Steve Shannon said.

Shannon said the interference led WHO, located at 1040 kilohertz, to cooperate with a Federal Communications Commission request to shut off its transmitter three times Monday and Tuesday nights for about five minutes at 7 p.m. CST, 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Doing so meant $5,000 to $10,000 in lost advertising, he said.

Shannon said the FCC, which licenses all U.S. broadcast stations, made similar requests to AM radio stations nationwide in an effort to "clear the air" so it could try to identify the intruding station.

"It's upsetting to us that we have to go off the air, but on the other side of the coin, the FCC doesn't want us to be interfered with and neither do we," said Shannon.

Cuban signals interfere with Des Moines AM

By WILLIAM MAHONEY
Staff reporter

WASHINGTON—Radio listeners were surprised last week to hear Spanish-style music coming over WHO-AM's frequency in Des Moines, Iowa, in the middle of a nighttime call-in show about basketball.

Apparently, a daytime AM Cuban government radio station didn't sign off at sunset as it's required to do, and its signal made its way to American radio listeners.

The Cuban station reportedly stayed on the air Dec. 2 with a broadcast commemorating the 30th anniverary of the start of Fidel Castro's revolution.

It broadcast until about 11:30 p.m., according to the Federal Communications Commission.

The incident caused the FCC to ask WHO and KSL-AM in Salt Lake City to shut down their transmitters repeatedly on Dec. 2 for two- to five-minute intervals to allow the FCC to identify the intruding station.

WHO, a 50,000-watt station operating at 1040 AM, received calls from listeners who said they suddenly heard Spanish-style music and were annoyed it was being played so loudly in the background during a talk show.

No listeners called to complain at KSL, which broadcasts at 1160 AM, but the station's chief engineer said the Cuban signal was audible underneath KSL's transmission.

The FCC identified "very weak" interference on KSL's frequency and traced the signal to a daytime AM station in Cuba also operating on 1160, according to John Dehnel, chief engineer at KSL.

An FCC spokeswoman said last week that the interference was discovered while KSL was temporarily signed off, at the FCC's request.

However, when the FCC investigated on WHO's frequency, it could not find any measurable interference, although at least 20 listeners had heard the music and called the station.

Asked how this could be, an FCC spokeswoman said the commission had simply been unable to detect any interference and would make no further attempt to explain the incident.

She said the next step may be taken by the U.S. State Department.

Mark Carros, WHO's operations manager, explains the calls came mainly from listeners south of Des Moines. The Cuban signal would have been stronger there than where the FCC monitored, he said.

KSL's Mr. Dehnel said the interference from the intruding Cuban station last week was "minimal," but added that in the past the station has had more serious interference problems from that station.

WHO has also had problems in the past with Cuban radio interference.#

C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A (via Kraig Krist)

Radio Prague invites you to listen to its regular feature Peace Tribune, broadcast every Tuesday in its transmissions for the British Isles and Western Europe at 19:00 and 21:30 hours GMT on 7345, 5930, 6055 and 1287 kHz, and every Thursday in its broadcasts for North America at 01:00 and 03:00 hours GMT on 6015, 6055, 7345, 9740 and 11990 kHz. Peace Tribune presents views on the key problem of our era - how to safeguard the peaceful future of this planet. You, too, may express your opinion on this problem!

D O M I N I C A N R E P U B L I C (via Rusty Serenberg, St Pete Beach FL) Radio Discovery, The Voice of the Caribbean, issued a new schedule effective Jan 2; UTC Tue-Sat 0000-0400 on 6245 [announced alternate of 6215 --Tim Hendel, Miami], and Sat 1800-2400 on 15045. 1000 watts omnidirectional in English/Spanish. Basic program format is latest pop music from the Caribbean and throughout the Americas, including merengue, salsa reggae, calypso, steel band, music from the French and Dutch islands, Latin and US pop; continuity mainly in Spanish by Pedro Estrella, interspersed with English. Phone lines for listener requests: English: (813) 360-4505; Spanish: (809) 562-6617.

Jeff White returns to shortwave to host the flagship program DISCOVERY DIGEST, 30 minutes, Monday-Saturday, a magazine in the informal style of THE WORLD, which he presented for three years on Radio Earth, becoming the second most popular daily shortwave program in North America, per the RIB poll. It will include informal conversation, travel features, DX news, letters from listeners, studio guests, documentaries and international music-- UTC Tue-Sat 0100 & 0300, Sat 1900 & 2200. DISCOVERY DX, news from the world of shortwave radio, DX tips and advance program details for stations around the world, hosted by Larry Miller, Fri 0130 & 0330, Sat 2230. US ROCK, top five hits from the USA, presented by Bill Parris, Sat 0130, 0330, 2130. Time has been sold to evangelists as well.

In Spanish: MÚSICA JOVEN PARA GENTE JOVEN, Israeli pop music produced by Israel Radio, UTC Tue 01½ and 0330; GENTE EN JERUSALEM, culture and current affairs program from the same, UTC Thu 0130 & 0330. EUROPARADA, countdown of top musical hits in Europe, presented by Alfonso Montealegre of Radio Nederland. Continuity is basically in Spanish, but this is a multi-lingual program anyone can understand, Sat 2000. Programs, times and frequencies are subject to change on short notice.

E C U A D O R (HCJB program schedule for December 1986-May 1987, via Kraig W Krist, Falls Church VA)

[shading in original a drawback here indicates HCJB-produced programs]

NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	UTC	EST AM	METER BAND
BEING ALIVE	Insight for Living with Dr. Charles Swindoll Insight for Living					Sounds of Joy	1130	6:30	11740kHz
The Sower	Sound Words					Here's How	1200	7:00	16m 17890 kHz
Kingdom Insights						Mountain Peaks			
HAPPINESS IS	We present HCJB staff, visitors and in-depth topics daily. HAPPINESS IS						1230	7:30	
	MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS					Children's Bible Hour	1300	8:00	19m 15115 kHz (delayed beginning also south)
Telling the Truth with Stuart Briscoe						Visit with Mrs. G	1330	8:30	
VARIATIONS	*The Bible For You (1300) *Thru the Bible (1400)					Bible Adventures			
MOUNTAIN MEDITATIONS	*Our Daily Bread (1315) *Pause for Good News *Shalom (1505) *Joni and Friends (1520)					Big John and Sparkie	1400	9:00	
Back to God Hour	*Pro Life Perspective (1520) NEWS 1325 1425 1525					Adventure Club	1430	9:30	
Moody Presents	Back to the Bible					Hobby of Kings			
						Tinker Tailor Soldier Saint	1500	10:00	25m 11740 kHz
						The Word Today			
						Morning Song	1530	10:30	
Turning Point	Insight for Living with Dr. Charles Swindoll Insight for Living					Words of Hope	0030	PM 7:30	25m 11910 kHz Also south
Calvary Hour	Focus on the Family with Dr. James Dobson Focus on the Family					Haven of Rest	0100	8:00	
Pause for Good News Shalom NEWS (0053)	0035 NEWS	0040 Guidelines	0040 Pro Life Perspective		0045 Stories/Great Christians	Joni/Sounds of times NEWS (0055)	0035	7:35	19m 15155 kHz
The King is Coming	LATIN AMERICAN NEWS (0100) PASSPORT WORLD NEWS (0150)					MUSICA DEL ECUADOR	0100	8:00	31m 9870 kHz
Back to God Hour	HCJB's magazine of the air. News, music and special features from Ecuador and the world.					THIS IS ECUADOR DISCOVERY	0130	8:30	
						Tinker Tailor Soldier Saint			
HCJB TODAY	Unshackled	SALUDOS AMIGOS	Unshackled	Reflections	Unshackled	Songtime	0200	9:00	
Rendezvous	DX PARTY LINE	MUSICA DEL ECUADOR	DX PARTY LINE	MUSICAL MAILBAG	In Focus	DX PARTY LINE	0230	9:30	31m 9870 kHz
The Sower		Tinker Tailor Soldier Saint			Hobby of Kings				
Hour of Freedom	NEWS 0305 Guidelines for Family Living with Harold Sala					Sounds of Joy	0300	10:00	
	Rendezvous Rendezvous								
HAPPINESS IS	Grace Worship Hour	Master Plan Chords of Love	In Focus Hobby of Kings	BEING ALIVE	Open Door	VARIATIONS	0330	10:30	49m 6230
NEWS (0400)	MUSIC IN THE NIGHT (Sacred music and inspiration at the close of the day.)					NEWS (0400) Hour of Decision	0400	11:00	
HAPPINESS IS	We present HCJB staff, visitors and in-depth topics daily. HAPPINESS IS						0430	11:30	
Christian Brotherhood Hour	Unshackled	Wonderful Words of Life MUSICA DEL ECUADOR	Unshackled	Shalom Psychology for Living	Unshackled	Joni/Sounds of Times Youth Time Radio	0500	12:00	25m 11910 kHz
HCJB TODAY	LATIN AMERICAN NEWS (0530) PASSPORT WORLD NEWS (0620)					MUSICA DEL ECUADOR	0530	12:30	31m 9870 kHz
MUSICAL MAILBAG	HCJB's magazine of the air. News, music and special features from Ecuador and the world.					THIS IS ECUADOR DISCOVERY	0600	1:00	49m 6230 kHz
Heaven and Home Hour	DX PARTY LINE	SALUDOS AMIGOS	DX PARTY LINE	Reflections	In Focus Hobby of Kings	DX PARTY LINE	0630	1:30	

DX LISTENING DIGEST get the full picture by subscribing to RIB's sibling--exactly the same rates (gh)

(via Rusty Serenberg & Kraig W Krist) HCJB also has a new release [does any other station call their transmissions releases? An HCJB trademark -gh] for Japan--in English, at 1200-1237 UTC on 6075 kHz: Sun BOX 691, MUSICA DEL ECUADOR, AGAINST THE GRAIN. Mon PAUSE FOR GOOD NEWS, DX PARTY LINE. Tue-Fri LATIN AMERICAN NEWS, and then Tue BEING ALIVE, Wed DX PARTY LINE, Thu HAPPINESS IS, Fri MUSICAL MAILBAG; the entire program Sat is QUITO CALLING JAPAN. Regular host seems to be the heavily-accented Brent Allred--listen to him mangle some pronunciations on the news. But it seems HCJB is a bit short in the newsroom, rather from next August when news director Brian Seeley goes on nine month furlough. They are looking for "people with a commitment to Christ and experience in news who would be willing to come to Quito for all or part of that time to work in the news room. Candidates would have to be willing to raise 'support' as do all HCJB missionaries, or otherwise cover expenses." This again raises the gnawing question of news objectivity on missionary outlets--while it is hard to imagine anyone without a commitment to Christ wanting to pay their own way to work at such a station, that's bound to influence news outlook. Perhaps the most pernicious recent evidence of this is the new network in the US, called "USA Network," I believe, which KVOH is enamored of--you can be sure one of the top news stories in each capsule will be pro-Christian, not news by any stretch of the imagination [but gh digresses...]

HCJB also provides some advance topics: THIS IS ECUADOR, UTC Sun 0100 & 0530 [note contradiction to block schedule], and to other targets Sun 0815 & 0945: Jan 25 A shrunken head? A solid gold Inca head dress? Just two of the things we may find as we visit the museum of the Central Bank of Ecuador; Feb 1 A walk around La Plaza de la Independencia. SALUDOS AMIGOS, Sun 0800 & 1900, UTC Weds 0200 & 0630: Feb 1-3, join Ken MacHarg and John Beck for a special repeat of a program recorded before a live audience at the 1986 ANARCON in Montréal, including Arthur Cushen on monitoring stations for POW info; Ian McFarland on how he got into broadcasting; and Jens Frost, WRTVH editor. Feb 8-10, at the request of a listener, featuring music of the panpipes, a.k.a. syrinx, Pandean pipes, or jei--instrument of great antiquity, consisting of a series of tubes or pipes of cane, wood, pottery, etc, bound together in a slight arc. The tubes are closed at the bottom and sounded by air blown from the mouth across the open top. Graduated in length and numbering from four to twelve or more, the thin pipes produce a diatonic scale when blown in sequence. Thin pipes make a thin sound, larger tubes a more mellow sound. Commonly associated with rustic and pastoral people, use of panpipes today is almost entirely confined to Romania and Hungary where folk musicians perform on them extraordinary feats of virtuosity. Don Marsh and his orchestra are featured with traditional hymns from the album Beside Still Waters; the program's closing theme is also taken from this album; panpipes are similar to Andean folk music often heard on HCJB. SALUDOS AMIGOS also answers letters from listeners and evangelizes

GERMANY WEST (Cleveland Plain Dealer, November 17, 1986, via Charles Weiss, South Euclid OH)

West Berlin TV station runs into static

U.S.-funded, German-language outlet irks many in Bonn

THE OBSERVER

WEST BERLIN — A new German-language TV station to be built here with American "start-up funds" has drawn protests from British and French military governments in West Berlin.

The French are said to have told the Americans that they consider the new channel to be "unnecessary."

Opposition Social Democrats fear the new station, which is planned to go on air in 1988, will become a platform for conservative propaganda. Legal experts are concerned that it could open the way for direct government involvement in broadcasting, while broadcasters see a danger of the media landscape's being flattened through "banal broadcasting."

The project is the brainchild of Charles Z. Wick, the Cleveland Heights native whom President Reagan appointed director of the United States Information Service. It was taken up by the Christian Democrat-led governments in West Berlin and Bonn.

Washington is to provide $12 million, and Bonn $4 million for start-up costs. From then on the Germans will pay more than 90% of the costs, estimated at about $29 million a year.

Although the West Berlin government says the question of control has yet to be settled, the Americans are expected to want the same system as for their radio stations in the city.

RIAS — Radio in American Sector — One and Two are financed almost entirely by Bonn but are part of the USIS, ultimate control lying with two U.S. directors on loan from the State Department.

Insiders say they have no direct influence on programs but it would be rare for the German management to go against the "general guidelines" they issue.

Independence for RIAS-TV was not envisaged by USIS chief Wick in an interview earlier this year but it was intended as a counterweight against disinformation, "partly inspired by the Soviet Union, partly coming in good faith" through a false orientation or a different point of view.

A Social Democratic Party position paper on RIAS-TV says there are "A row of examples of attempts within the American administration to use such media activities for propaganda to East and West."

One was Radio Free Europe, the Munich-based station which broadcasts to Eastern Europe. Under the direction of Wick, it had "developed into a station which has been sharply criticized even by the Polish Catholic Church for its one-sidedness," the SPD said.

The SPD paper expressed political concern at the Bonn government's plans to feed RIAS-TV into the West German cable-TV network. But even conservative commentators saw other dangers in that proposal.

Under a 1961 Constitutional Court ruling, the government may not become directly involved in broadcasting within West Germany (West Berlin is a legal limbo, still ultimately under Allied control).

Finding a way round the decision for the benefit of RIAS-TV could open up other chances for Bonn to get into the media business.

The experience of the radio station RIAS Two causes fears that RIAS-TV will follow its lowest-common denominator entertainment programming.

"People already speak of RIASisation in radio, with the public-service station Sender Freies Berlin having been forced down market to maintain audience share," said the chairman of the West Berlin arts and media trade union, Rainer Ott.

"We fear RIAS-TV will have the same effect, which will be useful for those interested in the profit possibilities of private television, but not for people who want to present or receive serious information."

DX LISTENING DIGEST back issues 6 and 7 cost $1.50; 10 and 11 $2 each. Country by country station news and schedules; plus David Newkirk's ENJOYING RADIO. 10-issue subscription $20, only from gh.

GERMANY EAST (via Kraig W Krist) Times & frequencies for RBI: to eastern NAm 2145 on 6125 [which Charles Weiss, S Euclid OH finds to be the only reliable one], 2300 on 6070 6125 6165, 0000 & 0045 & 0215 on 6080 & 9730. WNAm 0300 & 0430 on 6010 9560.

FRANCE (via RFI English section) This PARIS CALLING AFRICA content differs somewhat from that in RIB 114; 1600-1654 on 738 6175 9860 11705 11805 11930 15315:

In addition to the news, RFI broadcasts :

MONDAY : **Review of the french weekly press/ Sports**

TUESDAY : **Development magazine/Turntable or Top French pops/In France today**

WEDNESDAY : **The press on Africa/Arts in France/ Latin America notes**

THURSDAY : **Made in France/Land of France or French folk tales/Sports special**

FRIDAY : **Drumbeat or Anniversaries or Legends of Africa/Literature or Cinema**

SATURDAY : **Spotlight on Africa/Focus on France/ Guest or Science or Women's magazine**

SUNDAY **"POB" - listeners' letters,questions and record requests/Latin America magazine Every third sunday : "INSIGHT" : the news behind the news**

ENGLISH PROGRAMME SCHEDULE FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

DAILY	A bulletin of news, plus commentary and current affairs items.
MONDAY	provides a look back at the weekend's sport, both national and international, in Spotlight on Sport, and caters for DX listeners with our alternating RBI DX Club meetings and DX-tra (Europe only).
TUESDAY	features science and technology, social life, youth affairs etc. in GDR Kaleidoscope, plus Stamp Album and Faces & Places on alternate weeks.
WEDNESDAY	sees the focus on detailed answers to listeners' questions in Question Time, with music from the GDR hit charts in Pop Corner.
THURSDAY	takes you to all corners of the GDR to find aut about the Land We Live In (monthly: Talking of People), and with half the week over there's Mid-Week Sports Report.
FRIDAY	You can join us for reports about life in the socialist countries in Newsreel of the Socialist World and pick up exquisite tit-bits of information in Did You Know?
SATURDAY	is given over to Give Peace a Chance, our weekly review of what's been going on in the international peace movement. Yours For the Asking provides short answers to the questions you have put.
SUNDAY	we wind up the week by dipping into our Mailbag to Thank You for Writing, and in addition there's the last of our GDR feature programmes, Weekend Magazine.

Please send all your comments and enquiries to the English/ North America Dept., Radio Berlin International, Berlin - 1160 German Democratic Republic. 11/86 - 3/87
FROM KRAIG W. KRIST

GRENADA (Caribbean Echo, Miami, November 28, 1986)

VOA Relay Station

St. George's, Cana — The United States has begun talks with Grenada on plans to construct a multi-million dollar relay station for Voice of America on the Caribbean island, official Grenadian sources said.

A government official said the station could be built in the rural area of St. Andrew's, in northeastern Grenada.

He told Cana the United States was interested in setting up the station on a 100 acre site but because of problems in identifying a suitable location would have to settle for less land.

The official said the facility, which could cost between 10 and 15 million East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar = 37 cents US), would relay Voice of America broadcasts to the entire eastern Caribbean.

Voice of America broadcasts to the region are presently made through the Monsterrat-based Radio Antilles four hours every night.

The government official said there was a possibility that part of the agreement between Grenada and the U.S. could involve construction of a new government station here.

During the 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada, the island's lone radio station was bombed by American helicopters.

Since then, the island has been using a makeshift building in the capital as a radio station.

RADIO CHANGES--Radio Grenada is going through a transition this week-end, with expected changes in its programme and management. Sources at the station say Rawle Howard, who was only appointed to the post of manager four months ago, is "fed up" and will be leaving this week-end. Up to press time it was not clear who was to replace him, but five names have been called as possible candidates. One of those names is Lew Smith, a Grenadian-born boradcaster now working with Radio Antilles in Montserrat. However, Smith denied, in a telephone conversat-on last week, the rumour that he will be taking up the post. Whenever a new manager is appointed, it will be the station's fourth in three years. Also among those being rumoured to be in with a chance are Allan Palmer, and Jerry Romain, a one-time manager under the Eric Gairy government. Meantime, Radio Grenada will be going commercial as from Monday. Since 1983 the Government-owned station reverted to its traditional policy and was fully subsidised by the state. While all this is going on, reports from inside the station say, staff morale is at "an all time low", as "management" is not able to "motivate staff." [Text] [St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 30 Aug 86 p 3] /9274 CSO: 3298/004 [FBIS Latin American Rep 14-10-86]

I R E L A N D (Electronic Media January 5, 1987 via Tom Gavaras)

Ireland considering radio alternatives

By CAROLE CRAIG
Special correspondent

DUBLIN—Finding that its attempts to ban the country's 70 or more pirate radio stations have been backfiring, the Irish government is considering another alternative.

However, industry observers think the attempts to change the situation have made a joke of the government, which promised a radio bill four years ago but has been unable to convince its factions to agree on a law.

Legal broadcasting here consists of the government-owned monopoly Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE), which operates two radio stations and two TV channels and takes in advertising revenue and radio license fees.

Under a proposed government bill, Ireland's Minister of Communications would appoint a permanent radio commission with authority to grant local radio licenses.

The stumbling block is whether to grant licenses to commercially controlled stations.

The fight over the proposed bill is between Communications Minister Jim Mitchell, who represents the conservative side of Ireland's coalition government and is a believer in market forces, and Labor Party backbenchers, junior partners in the government who see themselves as protectors of Labor's socialist conscience and state enterprise.

If the proposed compromise works, commercial interests would be allowed to control no more than 49 percent of any single station, with community groups and perhaps RTE having the rest. A second category of licenses would be reserved for community-run radio.

Meanwhile, the pirates are stealing the government's audiences. Staid RTE's youth-oriented Radio 2 trails the pirate Sunshine Radio, with Q102, another pirate, a close third, according to a recent survey.

It is this kind of situation that "makes a joke of the law," says a member of the government's Interim Radio Commission.

The Irish government, providing it lasts through the spring, is expected to introduce the bill early this year.

If the government falls, the opposition is likely to introduce its own bill allowing commercially controlled stations shortly after taking power to avoid the delays that have embarrassed the current administration.

It would also consider legalizing some pirate stations.#

H U N G A R Y (Radio Budapest) HUNGARIAN HISTORY topics: Jan 20-26 A noted Hungarian jack-of-all-trades: László Zolnay. His varied pursuits; journalism and editing papers, writing, studying new and old works of art, archeology and - what he preferred above everything else: excavations on old sites. His eventful life and major adventures, the most successful of his excavations and the richest find: 14th and early 15th century statues dug up in Castle Hill, Buda; his books including the one published posthumously: Hírünk és hamvunk (Our Fame and Ashes). Jan 27-Feb 2 Hungary becoming part and parcel of the Holy Roman Empire following seven years of feudal anarchy and struggle for succession. In 1387, Sigismund of Luxembourg, the Holy Roman Emperor, was crowned king to rule Hungary as co-regent with his wife Mary, the daughter of Louis the Great. In 1416, a new threat came from the south: the first Turkish attack was carried out on Hungary. Ten years later there were Hussite incursions into Hungary from the north, leading to Hussite rebellions in different parts of the country. In 1437, Sigismund died, ending his much troubled four decades of rule, with a major peasant revolt in the Transylvanian principality.

This program is not in the regular English service, but at times carved out of otherwise Hungarian blocks. With winter propagation conditions making the evening broadcasts unreliable even in South Florida, I find the first airing tho intended for Europe, best, Tue 1900 on 9835, tho also scheduled on 11910 9585 7225 6110. Repeats are: Tue 2230 to Latin America on 15160 11910 9835 9585 6110 6025; UTC Wed 0130 to North America on 15160 11910 9835 9585 9520 6025; Fri 2230 LAm; UTC Mon 0400 NAm same as 0130. Aside from possible total rescheduling, all times move one hour earlier by UTC from March 29 due to DST in Hungary [gh's comments & frequencies from Charles Weiss, OH]

I S R A E L (William Westenhaver, Montréal PQ, Dec 9) The rundown of English transmission times and frequencies from Kol Israel has traditionally been given at the end of some of the Thursday broadcasts, so I was surprised to hear it today Tuesday at the end of the 2230. Later, checking their D86 programme schedule I see it's now listed Tues at end of 2230, and Weds at end of 0100 broadcast, no longer mentioned on Thursday, contrary to Nov WRTH Newsletter.

J A P A N (dpn) Radio Japan carried a commentary on the Strategic Defense Initiative at 1139 during its Sackville-relayed English on 6 January. What impressed me was that at no time during the commentary was the phrase "Star Wars" -- or "so-called Star Wars," a far more common affectation -- uttered. At last -- a news organization that sticks to the facts. Subsequent to the Falklands crisis I cringed every time so-called journalists referred to the persona of the Argentine shortwave clandestine as "Argentine Annie." I do not believe she ever applied that name to herself; it may be that "Tokyo Rose" never called herself "Rose", either.

(Pro Sound News, Nov 1986 via Mike Cooper, Atlanta)

New Radio Tara

DUBLIN, IRELAND—Radio Telefis Eireann is joining forces with Radio Luxembourg to launch a new long wave commercial radio station covering the whole of the U.K. and parts of continental Europe. The new station, to be called Radio Tara, will transmit a service of middle-of-the-road music, news and sports results, probably for 12 hours a day.

The station will use a 500 KW transmitter on 254 kHz, a frequency assigned to Ireland by the Regional Administrative Broadcasting Conference at Geneva in 1975. The channel has not been used in Ireland before, except by the defunct pirate Radio Nova. At night, the service area will be severely limited by interference from a 1500 kW signal on the same frequency from Tipaza, Algeria.

Although plans for the station are well advanced, it will take two years to get on the air. No site has been found for the transmitter, but it will be on the east coast some 30 miles from Dublin. The project also needs formal approval from the Irish minister for communications, but Jim Mitchell of RTE said such permission is expected soon.

A joint company will recruit personnel, RTE will provide the news service, and Luxembourg will provide financial and technical expertise. Radio Luxembourg hoped that the project will enable it to regain ground lost to ILR. Radio Luxembourg's existing medium wave channel relies on sky wave propagation and does not reach the U.K. until the evening.

Radio Monitor Started Report Of Kim Death

By DON OBERDORFER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Erroneous reports of the death of North Korean President Kim Il Sung four weeks ago were touched off by a lone U.S. radio monitor who thought he heard a North Korean broadcast to this effect, according to State Department officials.

A U.S. intelligence report on the solitary and surprising broadcast — attributed to Pyongyang Radio — was passed along in confidential channels by the U.S. military command in Seoul, South Korea, on the weekend of Nov. 15-16 to South Korean defense officials, who quickly informed South Korea's top leadership, the sources said.

Up to that point, what happened is established fact, according to Washington officials. But the reasons for what happened next is murkier: On Nov. 17, the South Korean Defense Ministry announced to the world that North Korean propaganda loudspeakers at the demilitarized zone were broadcasting news that the 74-year-old Kim, officially known as "the great leader" in the closed communist system he has led since World War II, had been fatally shot.

No recording is said to have been made of the original radio broadcast, which was treated warily in Washington and by the U.S. military command in Seoul because no broadcasts repeated it, no change in general programming to solemn music was reported and there was no indication of troop movements or other unusual activity in the North Korean capital.

Some U.S. officials believe the original report to have been a mistaken interpretation of a broadcast about the life — and death — of Kim Il Sung's mother, who is officially venerated in North Korea. What is certain is that only one radio monitor of one U.S. agency heard the report, officials said.

No Recordings

There were also no recordings of the alleged loudspeaker transmissions at the North-South dividing line. State Department officials said there is much doubt about these reported transmissions, noting that South Korean military as well as civilian intelligence authorities were under heavy pressure from the Blue House, the South Korean equivalent of the White House, to produce information about Kim's reported death following the U.S. tip.

One official speculated that South Korean troops at the DMZ, who were predisposed by word from their superiors to believe that something had happened to Kim, either thought they heard confirmation from the hard-to-understand loudspeakers across the demilitarized zone or manufactured the confirmation to please higher-ups.

Either way, clear-cut refutation of the loudspeaker transmissions would be embarrassing to the South Korean military establishment, which made public a detailed hour-by-hour chronology and "transcript" of the alleged announcements.

Careful study since the incident has produced no indication that anything happened to Kim four weeks ago, according to the Washington sources. On Tuesday, Nov. 18, a day after the news of Kim's supposed death was flashed around the world, North Korean news agencies reported that Kim had appeared at the Pyongyang airport to greet a visiting Mongolian delegation — and then released a photograph as proof.

Uncertainty Remains

Despite the deflation of the Kim-is-dead report, there continues to be uncertainty and speculation among Washington officials about several aspects of the situation in North Korea.

In mid-October, Kim made a surprise four-day visit to Moscow, the results of which are unknown. One unusual feature of the trip is that Kim was reported to have flown to the Soviet capital although he usually travels by train and is said to have an aversion to flying. There were also indications that his trip, only his second in two decades to the Soviet capital, was hastily planned.

The most basic source of uncertainty is due to the succession process, which has long been under way, in which "the great leader" is evenually to hand over power to his son, Kim Chong Il, 46, officially referred to as "the dear leader."

Although no dissent is tolerated in North Korea and all is calm on the surface, many of the small corps of Pyongyang-watchers in the West believe there is subterranean resistance to the dynastic succession of the younger Kim, who is less experienced than military, Communist Party and other major government figures.

KOREA NORTH (Greensburg PA Tribune-Review, Dec 14, via Rufus Jordan and/or Bill Dymond; originally in Washington Post Dec 14, via Kraig W Krist & Mike Cooper; also via Rusty Serenberg and D Corrigan) Question: Just who was this "lone monitor" & what agency worked he for--FBIS?? -gh

MEXICO (Ernie Behr, Kenora Ont) This XERF story, on WORLD OF RADIO Nov 8, brought back some old memories. It was my favorite stn in the early 50s, before I ever heard of SW-radio; XERF had a fantastic signal in NW Ont in those days, together with several other Mexican border stns, all with similar EG programming: XEDM 1580 Hermosillo Son "Nogales AZ, V of the Pacific"; XEXO 1550 Nuevo Laredo "Laredo TX, V of the Continent"; XEG 1050 Monterrey NL "Ft Worth TX, V of North America"; XELO 800 Ciudad Juárez Chih [now XEROK] "Clint TX" and two others rarely heard: XEFW 810 Tampico "Brownsville TX" & XERB 1060 Rosarito "San Diego CA". Most disappeared in the late 1950s, including XERF which became very difficult to hear. The only one still heard often but only in Spanish is XEDM 1580.

Spanish replaces faded echoes of the X

By MIKE COCHRAN (San Antonio Light via Artie Bigley)
Associated Press

DEL RIO — His elegant mansion is closed and crumbling and his voodoo sex surgery only a memory, but the electronic legacy of old Doc Brinkley speaks to us nightly from across the Rio Grande.

In Spanish.

After 55 years of on-again, off-again turbulence, XERF, the megapower radio station John Brinkley built in Ciudad Acuna, no longer clogs U.S. airwaves with evangelistic whinings, hillbilly music and mail-order hucksterism.

At least not in English.

According to Del Rio attorney Arturo Gonzalez, the Mexican government recently took over 250,000-watt XERF, jettisoned its traditional programming and converted totally to Spanish broadcasting.

Why?

"I wish I knew," said Gonzalez, whose company, Inter-American Radio Advertising, operated the station for Mexican stockholders since 1946. "We're now out of it completely."

Wasn't it making money?

"I thought it was," he said.

Loyal to the end, Gonzalez insists that XERF's checkered past often was exaggerated or distorted by the media and that the station was no more guilty of deceptive advertising than today's television pitchmen.

"A lot of mail-order stations got bad names because of advertising autographed pictures of Jesus Christ," he said while insisting that it was not XERF but the preachers who were to blame. "We'd sell them the radio time and they had control of 15 minutes or so of the show."

Indeed, XERF had its hucksters and hillbilly music and a noisy and colorful mix of good and bad preachers, but it also had a large and loyal audience.

"Thousands and thousands of people out there listened to XERF, enjoyed it and have for years," said Gonzalez. "And they are going to miss it."

For many, it was the sound of rural, fundamentalist America.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

STAR DJ: Paul Kallinger, disc jockey for XERF from 1948 through the '60s, poses at the furniture store he operates in Del Rio.

XERF: End of radio legend

/

XERF/from **A25**

And now that sound is gone.

According to historians, John R. Brinkley moved his unique medical practice from Kansas to Del Rio in the 1930s not so much by choice but for expediency.

The Kansas State Medical Board had revoked his medical license and the Federal Radio Commission had shut down his radio station, KFKB (Kansas' First, Kansas' Best).

KFKB's programming was confined mostly to preachers and country music but included ample spots for Brinkley's clinic at Milford.

Medical and communications authorities did not share the doctor's enthusiasm for a program called the Medical Question Box, in which listeners described their ills and Brinkley diagnosed them and prescribed treatment over the air.

A series of exposes by the Kansas City Star accelerated his downfall.

In the early '30s, Brinkley traveled to Mexico City and obtained permission to build a powerful radio station on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, at what then was Villa Acuna.

3

way, Paul Kallinger. . . ."

Kallinger said he once asked listeners to call in to determine his station's range. He said he received 80 calls from 43 of the 48 states, Canada, Japan, Germany, South America and Greenland.

Kallinger, now 63, rode shotgun for XERF as it bellowed and bullied its way through the champagne '50s and '60s, and eight times he was listed among Billboard's top disc jockeys.

He was elected to the Country Music Disc Jockey Hall of Fame in 1979.

"I guess that's the biggest achievement of my life," Kallinger said recently at the furniture store he now operates in downtown Del Rio.

Photographs of Kallinger with some of C&W's biggest stars cover his office walls and he ticks off their names as smoothly as a computer printout: Johnny Cash, Webb Pierce, Hank Snow, Sonny James, Jimmy Dickens, Eddy Arnold, Pee Wee King, Johnny Horton, Jim Reeves, Hank Williams.

The border location served his purpose nicely, enabling him to reach a largely American audience while avoiding U.S. regulatory authorities. And the station was only flirting with its potential 500,000 watts.

XER, as it originally was called, also was a dandy vehicle for promoting Brinkley's sex enhancement operations, which he performed in an office atop the Roswell Hotel in Del Rio.

"He developed an operation for putting goat glands into aging gentlemen to make them frisky again," was the way one biographer described it in an interview last year with National Public Radio.

Brinkley often pitched his own wares in a voice one woman described as deep and lovely, adding: "It would just wound you it was so beautiful."

Fiction overrides fact in much of the Brinkley saga, for it was reported that Brinkley switched from goat glands to human glands in Del Rio, using the cadavers of executed criminals.

"It was estimated that Dr. Brinkley performed over 16,000 operations in Del Rio at an average cost of $750," a story in Del Rio Guide reported in 1984.

Even without knowing the ratio of cadaver-to-patient, simple arithmetic suggests a shortage of executed criminals or an operating pace of perhaps 2,000 a year — nearly six a day.

Mexican officials silenced XER in the mid-1930s, presumably in response to U.S. pressure. The American Medical Association and the Internal Revenue Service also were nipping at Brinkley's heels.

In 1941, Brinkley filed for bankruptcy, and a year later he died of a heart attack in a San Antonio hotel.

He took his unique medical techniques to the grave with him but XER would rise again as XERF and become what Arturo Gonzalez and others claimed was the most powerful radio station in the world.

Certainly it was the most bizarre.

In the mid-1940s, a Mexican corporation obtained the dormant 1570-AM frequency, retained the services of Gonzalez and turned old Doc Brinkley's so-called "border-blaster" into a huge moneymaker.

In 1948, a young disc jockey named Paul Kallinger joined the station and his voice and sign-on would become an XERF trademark:

"The most powerful commercial operation in the entire world today — station XERF in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico — is on the air . . . coast to coast, border to border, whoever you are, wherever you may be, this is your good neighbor along the

When not spinning records or posing with entertainers, Kallinger and his colleagues introduced such mail-order delights as D-Con rat and mouse killer, baby chicks, holy oil and the "very first" ball point pens.

But Kallinger denies selling the biggie, the one item that helped make the station a legend.

"People had heard that I was the one who did this, that I sold an autographed picture of the Lord Jesus Christ," he said. "That I've never done. We sold the Lord's last supper table cloth and had pictures of the Lord's last supper in vinyl.

"It was a big seller those years."

Kallinger's departure from XERF was memorable, occurring after an intruder stuck a pistol in his stomach during a shoot-out at the station and ordered him in Spanish to "run."

He ran.

Kallinger said the incident marked his last live broadcast on XERF.

The Del Rio News-Herald described the April 18, 1963, episode as a labor dispute over station ownership that resulted in a raid by two carloads of men armed with a machine gun and pistols.

A more vivid account of the drama came from a young XERF disc jockey named Bob Smith, who called himself Wolfman Jack. But the Wolfman's version often varied with the telling.

He spent only about two years in the early '60s at XERF, but his gravelly voice and howling introductions to rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues songs was an overnight hit with teen-agers.

Now a fixture on the West Coast, the Wolfman told the Associated Press in 1982 he intended to include the shoot-out in a movie he was filming about XERF.

At the time, XERF was making a celebrated but ill-fated comeback.

It would be more than just an interesting story at an unusual station.

"It's the era," he said. "It's the music, you know. It's the preachers. You remember the preachers back in '62. They were a little bit crazier than they are now, you know."

Still, XERF was more than gospel and guitars and mail-order spiels. It was more than Brinkley and the Wolfman and good neighbor Kallinger. It was more than a monster transmitter and more than an electronic aberration.

Says Maxine Crossley of Del Rio, a longtime XERF listener:

"This was the history of radio."

N E T H E R L A N D S (via Dick Rush & Carl Mann) R Netherlands programming details carry over from RIB 114, page 2, except for this further information about MEDIA NETWORK on Thursdays: Jan 22 News Update, including Goonetilleke's DX news; packet radio in Neth. How soon will it be before licensed

hams will be able to communicate across the continent? Jan 29 Crystal Clear--third program on vintage radio; more details on the Dutch Historical Society for Radio History; talk to the developer of MW stereo in Holland, and early MW experiments back in the 50s. Feb 5 News update--Cushen DX news, current developments at the World Administrative Radio Conference, Geneva--or does WARC stand for "Well Advanced Radio Chaos"? Feb 12 QRZ, QSL, QRT? Breaking down the clichés of ham radio perceived by the public, such as talking in strange codes, causing TVI, putting up large antennas--the work of VERON, the Dutch National Amateur Radio Society. National TV Teletext service carries regular column about ham radio. Visiting the HQ in Arnhem, looking at trends in ham radio. Feb 19 News review--Andy Sennitt of WRTH, local radio project in Liberia. In light of recent failures by UNESCO in Kenya surrounding local radio, what chance has this Dutch-sponsored project of succeeding? Feb 26 Back to the Future?--developments toward satellite radio; what ever happened to France's DBS plans? & Victor Goonetilleke. Mar 5 Ireland's isolation-- a documentary co-produced with RTE Dublin--the only major country in Europe which hasn't got a SW service. But it used to broadcast on SW in the past. We look back to the days when it did, using archival material. Also examine Ireland's plans to launch new international services in the future. Also expected soon: review of new Lowe AF-125 receiver from Britain; review of Ten-Tec RX-325--worth the price? Has the US reëntered top of the range receiver field? Review of the new Broadcasting Handbook from Bernd Friedewald, Homberg, West Germany. MEDIA NETWORK audible in North America: 0750 B9630 B9715, 1050 B9650 B6020, 1450 M17575 F15560 F13770 M11735. 1650 M15570. 1850 B21685 B17605 M9540. 2050 F11740 F9895 M9715 M9540. 0250 B9590 F9895 B6165 F6020. 0550 B9715/6165

N I C A R A G U A [non] (The Vindicator, Youngstown OH, Dec 28, 1986, via Paul Tanona, Youngstown OH)

Embattled Contras to begin broadcasts

By Chris Hedges
Dallas Morning News

MIAMI — Sometime in the next 10 days, Nicaragua will get a new 50,000-watt radio station, the first tangible result of the $100 million in U.S. aid provided to the Nicaraguan rebels.

The rebel station, which will broadcast from Honduras and reach most of the country's 3 million people, will undoubtedly provoke an angry response from the Sandinista government and should bolster the sagging fortunes of the rebels, beset by military setbacks and fallout from the Iranian crisis.

"We consider the radio as important as the army because this is primarily a political war," said Leonardo Somarriba, the secretary general of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, the umbrella organization for the rebels, or Contras. "The radio will be used to shape our image and allow us to have direct contact with the Nicaraguan people."

The first secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington, Sofia Clark, called the planned broadcasts "a scheme of the Reagan administration" that will "heighten tensions in the region and further involve Honduras in the war against Nicaragua."

"The broadcasts will have some repercussions," Clark said in a telephone interview from Washington, "but it is not going to be catastrophic. The Nicaraguan people are not going to be misled. They know who the Contras are and what they represent, especially since the Contras began using land mines indiscriminately last July."

Contra leaders, who have been busy in the past few weeks producing demo tapes in a Miami studio, stress that the station will not descend into angry rhetoric or transmit exaggerated or false news. The station, which will be called Radio Liberation, will transmit 12 hours a day, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"We have three shortwave radio stations which are geared primarily for the combatants," said Marta Sacasa, the press secretary for UNO. "This station will be aimed at a different audience.

"We want to reach those people who are not involved in any kind of opposition group and inform them about who we are and what is happening in Nicaragua and the world," Sacasa said. "We want to appear open and accepting, even to those who work with the Sandinistas. We do not want people to feel that we will persecute them afterwards. We understand that there are only a few people who are really responsible for all this."

The Sandinista government controls all of the communications media inside Nicaragua. Many Nicaraguans tune in to stations from neighboring Costa Rica and Honduras for news that is censored in their own country. Three times a day the Voice of America broadcasts news in Spanish on an FM frequency throughout Nicaragua. The high-pitched strains of "Yankee Doodle Dandy," which lead off each VOA newscast, often emanate from within the walls of the shacks and small wooden houses that ring the capital. Conversations in Managua frequently seem to start out with the latest news heard a few hours earlier on the VOA, pronounced in Spanish like "boa."

"We won't try to compete with the VOA," Sacasa said, "but at the same time we must be objective. We must have credibility. We cannot end up like the radio station run by the Cuban exiles."

"The Cubans made such outrageous claims on the radio they ran in the early '60s that no one in Cuba believed what they had to say," she said. "I think Castro finally saw the radio as helping his cause."

Sacasa said that early news demo broadcasts that dealt with the capture of downed American cargo handler Eugene Hasenfus were "exaggerated."

"They reported that he had been tortured when it was not true," she said. "We must be careful not to let this happen once we go on the air."

The Contras have outlined specific themes that they say they will hammer on in each broadcast.

"We have three issues which we are going to target," Somarriba said. "We want to focus on the issue of the land mines and make it clear that it is the Sandinistas who are planting these mines, not the Contras. We want to point out the number of 'internationalists' from various countries who have come to Nicaragua and taken jobs away from Nicaraguans, and finally we want to deal with the issue of corruption, which has created shortages and has become widespread throughout the government."

Radio Liberation will transmit a series of programs that Contra leaders hope will appeal to the peasantry. Nicaraguan sociologists are gathering information from interviews with recent Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica for the radio producers. The sociologists will analyze the broadcasts to make sure that the radio station is in touch with the daily life of the average Nicaraguan.

The station, in addition to news and music, will feature a program called "Pancho Madrigal," which was aired on Nicaraguan radio for 30 years. The program ended a few years ago when its creator, Fabio Gadea, fled to Costa Rica.

The program will dramatize the plight of a poor, elderly peasant, Pancarcio Prieto, and his life in Sandinista-controlled Nicaragua. In one segment the elderly man discovers that the coffin said to contain the body of his 18-year-old grandson killed in combat with the Contras in fact contains bananas. The Sandinistas, who often do not allow relatives to open coffins containing the remains of loved ones killed in combat, have been accused by their critics of not always placing the cadavers in the pine boxes.

The show also will contain credible imitations of President Daniel Ortega and Interior Minister Tomas Borge. One segment has the voice of Borge, who occasionally dominates the state-controlled electronic media for several hours, droning on about U.S. imperialism while the old man intersperses the speech with asides and jokes.

The radio will also broadcast what the Contras contend are dramatized real-life cases of human rights abuses committed by the Sandinistas against the civilian population. The dramatization will be called "Tell Me Your Story."

One such program dramatizes the rape of a young girl and the murder of her father.

The station frequently will present interviews with Contra leaders and members of Nicaraguan groups in exile. It will broadcast a weekly mass, and the Contras say they also are toying with the idea of a children's program.

on new radio station

gh: Don't you believe at right that VOA broadcast on FM in Nicaragua--must refer to AM 930 from Costa Rica. This story is somewhat contradictory to another from LA Times widely reprinted Dec 25-26 via Serenberg, Werts, Echevarría, Doughie-- it denies funds from the US $100 million, and says

unidentified US officials put the site in El Salvador (not Honduras). Via Tom Gavaras, AP reported that Radio Liberación was scheduled to start broadcasting Jan 15, having been successfully monitored in Managua some days before during tests. None of these stories bother to mention a really insignificant datum--the frequency. Several evening scans of the MW band here before that date failed to turn up anything unusual on the splits--xxx5.

[non non] (January DX Ontario)

Voice of Nicaragua-George Wood Interviewing Paula Dowbin of VON, Transcribed from Sweden Calling DXers of Dec. 2/86.

Paula: When I first came to Nicaragua, I came with a construction brigade. The brigade only stayed for a month, but I wanted to be in Nicaragua for about four years, so I started looking for work. After the construction brigade I went to pick coffee up north, then returned to Managua to look for work. My friend Cathy was working here, but she had to go back to Canada, so then I started working here, but with no radio experience.

George: Is that typical for the other people who work in your English group?

Paula: Yes. The head of the English group, whose name is Barney, is a Nicaraguan. He lived in the United States for ten years. He speaks fairly good English, but he has no radio experience either. He was the first person to start working in the English department. Since then we have had various North American, Canadian and British people working here, maybe five or six, none of which, except one person, had any radio experience.

George: Was it difficult then, to make programs, lacking the experience and I assume you also lack a lot of equipment here.

Paula: Yes. Those are the two problems. I think the thing we lack most is a good writing style. We write too academically and it comes out sounding, as far as I'm concerned, very awkward over the air. Another problem is, for instance, Barney speaks good English, but when he translates the Spanish into English, he translates it very literally, so it comes out sounding like a literal translation, and that isn't good for print, and even worse for radio.

George: What are your programs like? What goes into a typical program?

Paula: We start out with headlines and a main block of news, about ten to fifteen items that I read with Barney, interchanging. Then we usually pur in a song, usually Nicaraguan music, but we sometimes use Latin music or even US. Then we do updates, which is a series of six international stories, not necessarily related to Nicaragua. In the main block we do stories about things that happened in Nicaragua or in Central America related to Nicaragua, and then in Latin America. In the updates section we do more international news. Then after that we put a song in, if not, other times we have an interview. For instance, this week, I did an interview with three US Vietnam veterans, a 45 minute interview. So each day we are putting about 15 minutes of that interview in. Before that, we covered the Hasenfus trial. Each week, we try to get some sound in English of what's happening in Managua. After that session, we repeat the main block of news, the headlines, and that's the show.

UNA VOZ LIBRE EN AMERICA
LA VOZ DE NICARAGUA

George: What kind of response do you get from listeners?

Paula: Well, you see, one of the problems is with the mail. The mail is being seriously tampered with, so we're not getting as much mail as we used to. We do get at least a couple dozen letters a month from listeners all over the world, but primarily from Europe and North America. A lot of them are primarily shortwave radio hobbyists. They don't write in telling us how they felt about the content of our program, just that they want a QSL card. And it's fine that we're reaching those people because who didn't have any political awareness about Nicaragua will write things and say "It's really good to hear your side of the story, because we're bombarded with the other side, that Nicaragua is a totalitarian state, blah, blah, blah, so it's good for us to hear how you folks present it". I think we're bridging gaps by what we're doing here.

(Transcribed by Ivan Grishin)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Clipping at right from Times on Sunday, 4 January 1987, via Patrick McDonald, Dural NSW, Australia--

PHILIPPINES (gh) Radio Veritas has a new English to Asia schedule effective Jan 1 with these changes to RIB 114-11: Sun SEARCH FOR SHELTER ex-PEACEMAKER. Thu RESPECTABLE HOME ex-YOUTH TALKS. Fri TODAY'S WORLD ex-DEVELOPMENT ASIA on the 0130 on 15135 15270. Thu HUMAN SHELTER ex-EXPLORE ASIA, on the 1500 on 9710 & 15215 kHz.

PORTUGAL

(via Owen Williamson, TX) LUSO-AMERICANO, NOVEMBER 5, 1986

Agostinho Mendes, a deputy in the Portuguese Parliament, suggested that all television and radio announcers in the Portuguese media must pass an examination on spoken and written Portuguese.

This suggestion was made during a meeting on the Defense of the Portuguese Language. Portuguese is expected to be one of the most important languages in the world next century.

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Cowboys are coming to Papua New Guinea

•ROBIN• •OSBORNE•

THE history of television planning in Papua New Guinea has been far more entertaining than any of the programs likely to go to air within a year as a result of last week's National Court decision that government legislation banning broadcast TV until 1988 was invalid.

However, January 1988 is still the likely starting date.

The judges cleared the way for transmission by Niugini Television Network (NTN), owned by Western Australian magnate Kevin Parry, whose media interests include NBN-3 in Newcastle.

NTN was granted broadcast approval by the then Prime Minister, Michael Somare, in May 1985.

NTN was predictably devastated when the Coalition government of Paias Wingti, which ousted Somare, ruled on the eve of transmission last July that the proposed program content would have to be approved by an official tribunal.The company claimed it had spent $10 million setting up its station.

The timing was so bad as to suggest malice because the tribunal had been in existence for six months with a brief to examine the social, economic and technological implications of the introduction of TV. It was to report to Communications Minister Gabriel Ramoi — the closest thing to a radical in conservative PNG.

Neither Ramoi nor Prime Minister Wingti was impressed when NTN responded to the postponement of broadcasting by placing a newspaper ad listing the programs viewers would have seen. Many were lowbrow imports, some from the I Love Lucy and Bonanza era. What Los Angeles saw in the 1950s was apparently suitable for PNG today.

Local content, most of it news, seemed minimal. Conspicuously absent was programming suited to a developing country — not surprisingly perhaps, as 85 per cent of PNG's three and a half million people live in rural areas and less than half have access to the electrification necessary to run the "bokis piksa" (picture box).

In August the government enacted legislation banning all broadcast TV until 1988. But NTN appealed on the grounds of constitutional illegality, saying the government did not observe the freedom of press provisions in the constitution — an appeal the court has now upheld.

A majority of the judges said the government should redraft the legislation, as TV ought to be handled carefully in a society like PNG.

Wingti and Ramoi also sought advice from Sydney barrister Stuart Littlemore, a former ABC-TV current affairs journalist.This week, stressing that he was not speaking for his clients although reflecting their general view, Littlemore said: "The kind of programming envisaged is entirely inappropriate and makes a mockery of PNG nationhood."

He felt the education/information function of TV had been ignored almost completely - "even Indonesian television is better in this regard " - and it was "deplorable" to proceed before researching the fundamental matter of broadcasting aims in a country vulnerable to possibly damaging cultural impact.

It is not as if there are no such studies, however.

In 1978, three years after PNG's independence, a Television Advisory Committee recommended that TV should be introduced neither then nor in the foreseeable future, cautioning against the cultural impact of showing fictional material, especially violence, to audiences who believed that all films were true.

It also warned that commercial TV could create economic expectations no government could meet.

A study of the street violence which followed the recent death of populist politician, Sir lambakey Okuk showed modern pressures have increased Papua New Guineans' volatility.

In 1982 an inter-departmental committee, established by then Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan to evaluate a plan by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) to set up a shoe-string TV operation, advised against TV on both social and economic grounds.

The committee learned that NBC's enthusiasm was based on a scanty report commissioned from a Sydney public relations consultant, Joe Joel, brother of the more famous Sir Asher.

The report, computed to have cost PNG about $12 a word, generated considerable mirth with recommendations like the one proposing that NBC-TV construct novel outdoor studios to utilise tropical daylight - no mention of protecting equipment from tropical downpours.

This prompted a splendid hoax by inveterate prankster, ABC journalist Sean Dorney, who is due to return soon to his ABC posting in Port Moresby. Using a mockup letterhead from a non-existent Swiss TV institute, Dorney distributed a press release from a Professor Fraudberg predicting that PNG was poised to become the film capital of the Pacific. The statement got prime coverage on NBC radio and in the press.

The truth, of course, is that PNG's TV industry is on no such threshold, despite additional interest from another company, Media Niugini, backed by Kerry Packer's interests.

In the manner of much Australian television, both in the early days and, alas, all too often now, the program blend is of lowest-common-denominator imports and local productions aimed at giving a nationalistic gloss.

ROMANIA (via Kraig W Krist) R Bucharest, effective Nov 3, 1986: Eu/NAm 1930-2030 on 7195 7145 6055 5990, and 0200-0300 on 11940 11810 9570 9510 6155 5990: Mon CERTAINTIES OF THE FUTURE, YOUTH CLUB, DX PROGRAMME, SPORTS ROUND UP. Tue TOURIST NEWS, FAVOURITE TUNES. Wed LET'S TALK IT OVER, ROMANIAN MUSICIANS, DX MAILBAG. Thu FRIENDSHIP & COOPERATION, SKYLARK(folkmusic). Fri MEET ROMANIA. Sat CULTURAL SURVEY. Sun SUNDAY STUDIO. At 2100-2130 & 0400-0430 on the same respective frequencies: Mon PAGES OF HISTORY. Tue ROMANIA TODAY & TOMORROW. Wed FOCUS ON TOPICAL QUESTIONS. Thu LISTENERS LETTERBOX. Fri TRADE, COOPERATION, DEVELOPMENT. Sat ROMANIAN ASSETS IN THE WORLD. Sun RADIO PICTURES.

SA'UDI ARABIA (William E Westenhaver, Montréal PQ) BSKSA was noted in English Dec 4 at 1910 on 9720 [scheduled 1600-2100 on 9720 & 9705 -gh] with a strange programme of woman talking over an instrumental version of the Michael Jackson song "Thriller." Only the odd word was intelligible, due to poor audio at her mike, and I wish I knew what the whole thing was about. At 1925 a male DJ came on, mentioned "This is BSKSA..." and invited us to "get down and boogie" with his Tuesday/Thursday show; he then played US pop songs. Reception was weak, but glad to hear them for the first time.

SOUTH AFRICA (Michael Harla, Vineland NJ) Most of the RSA/Namibia services I've heard--SWABC, Orion, even R RSA, program music which tends towards country or MOR hits of the 60s. So I was surprised to tune across Radio 5 on 4880 Jan 5 and find them playing "Boy in the Bubble". This is the title track from "Graceland," Paul Simon's new album featuring black South African musicians. The tunes for the next half hour were less striking but almost as recent, rockers like Bob Seeger or Jackson Browne. For those whove heard this station regularly this is old news--I was just impressed to find an RSA station in the present. PS: couldn't find any New Year's Eve broadcast or mentions of same.

gh: I heard no mentions of it on regular transmissions either, but it was on--2200-0150 on 9785 for Europe, 9615 and 6185 NAm, 3940 for SAf (the last not hrd and perhaps incorrect as it was "in the 90 meter band"!) This time it was hosted by Kathy & Shirley of the mailbag program, who were as bubbly as their champagne, and seemed to get progressively more soused as the night wore on. Phone numbers, given far too infrequently and accounting for long periods of music fill, were 714-2068 and -2069. Most of the callers were from North America, many of them repeaters of previous years. The usual banal forced conversations about the weather, what time it is, and how everyone hopes 1987 will be great. A few of the callers ventured to express their undying support for the ruling white minority regime, although in rather more veiled terms than that.

SWEDEN (Mike Harla, NJ) Claude Stephenson announced that he'll no longer be able to send a prize to every entrant in his stamp contests. Instead, 10 people submitting correct answers will be selected to receive "big prizes". 10 more will receive "consolation prizes". The questions will be harder than before, says Claude. [That program is on Mondays, once a month, as I recall -gh]

TURKS & CAICOS (gh) Following up the item in DXLD-11 pp 13-14: Dominating 1570 here at night since mid-November is this new station, gospel format in the style of the old XERF, which causes some interference. The most interesting time to listen is after 6 pm EST, when there's local news, weather, shipping reports sandwiched between CNN news and Paul Harvey pulled off a satellite feed. Yet the station is so remote from the main town on South Caicos that it has no phone service, and when it does it will have to be by radio. Only the promise of hefty power bills persuaded the island to run power lines out there. This information comes from a conversation with Buddy Tucker of Christian Radio Productions in Fort Lauderdale, whom I visited on January 16. Though nominal 50 kW, various problems have prevented them from reaching this level except for about four nights since sign-on, the latest being a lightning strike; however, they expected to be back up to 50 kW that same night, and have more of a chance against XERF, which he thought had recently increased their signal, coincidental or not to the appearance of TAB. It's a 60 kW transmitter, with effective potential level of 75 due to not being restricted to FCC modulation levels. Same state-of-the-art transmitter as Caribbean Beacon, Anguilla, not related to this station which is owned by Koit Drapery in California, which also has set up lots of other Christian stations in turnkey operations. Mr Tucker regrets very much that the frequency (which he did not select) conflicts with a gospel station in Santo Domingo (Radio Amanecer, which has consequently shifted to 1575, where Tim Hendel and I have noted it). He would like to see an eventual rise to 100 kW, and re-engineering so that the USA is the primary target area, though he is glad Jamaica finally has access to a gospel AM outlet. Perhaps because of anticipated rapid turnover of preachers, the printed schedule is only general: Sun Christian programming and music. Mon-Sat 5-7:30 am [EST] sponsored programs in 15 & 30 min segments. 7:30-7:45 news, weather and shipping reports. 7:45-8 news events of T&C. 8-9 Christian music. 9-noon same as 5 am. 12-12:15 pm international, Caribbean, and T&C news/weather. 12:15-12:30 shipping reports. 12:30-1 Christian music. 1-4 pm sponsored religious [note earlier in day religious not

Atlantic Beacon
South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands, B.W.I.

specified] programs in 15 & 30 min segments. 4-6 sponsored Christian music. 6-6:15 pm same as noon. 6:15-6:30 pm shipping reports, other announcements of special interest to T&C Islands. 6:30pm - 1 am sponsored religious programs in 15, 30 minute and one-hour segments. An accompanying rate sheet shows for example, $90 each for a 5-day a week 30-minute prime time (6pm - 1 am) program; $200 for a one-hour program during the same period on Saturday and Sunday. Eventual plans are for a second transmitter to be programmed in Spanish, perhaps on 530 or 1020, though Tucker feels the latter would be close to 4VE-Haiti, so 1070 would be better.

U K O G B A N I (Allen Cooper, Manager, BBC English Services, International Broadcasting & Audience Research, undated circular via Mike Cooper, Atlanta) ...the Listener Panel as a whole has been disbanded, although we will be continuing our research activities in other ways...

(Michael Harla, NJ) BBCWS is again conducting a "can you hear us?" survey. Instructions: for a given time when you listen to them, write on a postcard your name, address, local time (instead of UTC, why I don't know), frequency and quality of reception; also could include receiver type. Replies will be entered in drawing for prizes, including SW receiver; heard Jan 5, 9 to 12.

(Peter James, Amherst NS, Jan 5) BBCWS coming in well local evening on 3955 (cycle at its nadir?) but getting harder for first release of OUTLOOK at 14, as well as 20-22. Severe QRM from France on 6175 from 2000 to close of this frequency; they should try something out-of-band (as should RCI as evidenced by reception in Europe last summer). When is the last time BBCWS innovated & gave us additional transmitter time either from Sackville, Greenville, Antigua, direct or even utilized new/different frequencies?! I agree with Loren Cox that the BBCWS doesn't think we exist in North America albeit we probably have the best equipment and potentially among the largest English-speaking audience. Anyone else feel the same about the above-mentioned matters?

(Loren Cox, Lexington KY) According to the BBC-TV SIX O'CLOCK NEWS, commencing 9 Dec, BBC TV will have a 3-minute newscast every hour on the hour. I know of no other general programming television network in the world that does this. Does this presage the conversion of BBC-TV to an all (or mostly) news network (perhaps with worldwide distribution), with "entertainment" programming available on another network - a 'pay per view' BBC TV? There is a Tory proposal to convert BBC to a 'pay per view' service.

(Mike Cooper, Atlanta GA) The SCPC services (BBCWS audio & VOA feeders) can be received on a basic home satellite dish, but only with additional equipment. He is using a block converter with his R7000. It can also be picked up using TV audio receiver covering 50-90 MHz and taking 75 MHz IF from downconverter. However, in the latter case, only the strongest signals are available. I called American Public Radio and was told by the engineer that the transmissions is at very low audio level. He said for now, 24 hour a day WS coverage, but would be dropped to just news program down the road. Just found a TV transponder used by NHK to relay to Tokyo, which carries BBC TV newscasts--some of them live. What a treat, though I'd rather have quality reception of the World Service

gh: Once again, because this RIB would not be out until late January, we ran BBCWS advance programming for January in DX LISTENING DIGEST, out in late December. Some of the February series on following pages also run in January. A couple of late-Jan highlights: CRIME & PUNISHMENT, how the death penalty applies in different countries--Sun 25 1615, 27 2330, 29 0330. TWO CHEERS FOR JANUARY, satirical review, Wed 28 1530, 29 0030 & 1030.

U S A (Dave Rosenthal, Ridgecrest CA) On SKYLINE [part of Radio Earth, UTC Sat repeated Wed 0300/0400 via WHRI 7400], I'm about to try two more over-the-air computer bit-stream transmissions. A listener makes an off-air tape of the audio bit-stream and plays it back into a correctly set up modem-equipped home computer. If the received signal is decent and the computer is correctly set up, my message will print right out on the monitor screen. You can save the data file on disk and use it to print out as many hard copies as you like. On Feb 13 & 17, I will send a table of times and places where an astronomical event will be visible from North America--the moon is passing in front of the bright star Spica before dawn on February 18. On March 6 and 10 the bit stream will be a QSL card to commemorate the beginning of SKYLINE's fourth year on the air.

(via Rusty Serenberg, et al) Some VOA previews: Tue Jan 27 at 1247, 1747, Wed 0247 WORLDWIDE SHORTWAVE SPECTRUM, visit to the HQ of Intelsat, in Washington. Fri Jan 30 DAYBREAK AFRICA birthday of R&B stylist Ruth Brown, at 0310-0400 & 0610-0700. Sat Jan 31 finals of America's Cup begin in Perth. VOA does not given any specific plans about its coverage, but presumably plans to from mentioning this. Sun Feb 1 STUDIO ONE all about jamming, by Gene Reich; now at 1230, 1530, 2130, Mon 0030. Exemplifying what a huge time lag there is in publishing "Voice" by printing it in the Philippines, the Dec-Jan issue does not take into account several program retimings given in an Oct 3 memorandum, which went in

(St Petersburg Times Dec 6 via Rusty Serenberg)

Not enough 'dings' when Big Ben rings

Associated Press

LONDON — Big Ben missed a chime Friday, and for Londoners it was like skipping a heartbeat.

At 6:45 a.m., when the famous clock above the Houses of Parliament should have been pealing out a melodious ding-dong-ding-dong, it left out the second ding.

Alarmed clock doctors hurried to the belfry and found that a 128-year-old rod had snapped on the bell that plays the note E in the sequence of G sharp, F sharp, E and C.

The rod was fixed with a temporary bolt, and at 9:30 a.m. Big Ben was back to normal.

"It certainly was a shock," said Adam Linford, a spokesman for the Westminster borough agency in charge of Big Ben. "When something goes wrong, people certainly do notice."

to effect Sunday Oct 26--a suspicious date coinciding with end of DST in the USA, for a station which is supposedly immune to domestic DST. Daily, SPECIAL ENGLISH at 1330 ex-1230. M-F MAGAZINE SHOW 1230 ex-1330. Sun MUSIC USA STANDARDS at 1530 replaced by STUDIO ONE, which also moves to 1230 ex-1330. ENCOUNTER from 1310 to 1210; CRITIC'S CHOICE from 1210 to 1310. Sat AMERICAN VIEWPOINTS from 1210 to 1310; WEEKEND from 1310 to 1210 (via Mike Cooper). Reading "Voice" you would also never guess that VOA has broadcast in Haitian Creole since last summer, or that following it, now retimed to 2200-2215 there is a CARIBBEAN AFTERNOON REPORT in English on 9640, 11740, 15120. Radio Martí has a new program CUBA POR DENTRO (inside Cuba) since Oct 27-31, offering in-depth, objective analyses of current events and issues there, unavailable to Cubans from any other source, per USIA/USIS Newswire Nov 5, which does not say when it's on. See the December 1986 Broadcast Engineering magazine for a pair of articles Updating the VOA, and Updating the AFRTS, which go into some detail about studio design, and includes a diagram of the AFRTS SATNET system (via David Alpert)

(Dave Hughes, News Manager, Radio World, Falls Church VA, Dec 5)[Cf RIB 114] Regarding the KNON story, I recently talked to GM Jeff Murray and KCBI GM Carl Singer for an article in the January 1 RW. Apparently, KCBI-FM, which operates with 9.7 kW on 89.3 MHz wants to move to KNON's frequency 90.9 in order to increase power to 100 kW. Because of restrictions due to spacing of Dallas-area stations, KCBI was not allowed to raise power on 89.3. When (if) KCBI moves to 90.9, its original frequency 89.3 would become vacant and open for other applicants. According to Singer, the two stations had been discussing a swap of frequencies. However, the FCC's allegations regarding KNON's misrepresented ownership structure prevented the transfer. KNON's Murray told me his station plans to appeal the decision, which could take from one to three years. However, KNON, which he admitted depends on donations from "low and moderate income people" does not have a lot of money for a protracted legal battle, he maintained. KNON, Murray added, programs an eclectic mix of soul music, gospel, progressive rock, along with a large dose of Hispanic and minority-oriented programming.

gh: Thanks to Evelyn Wilson, TX, via Tim Hendel, FL for a Dallas Times Herald story of Dec 7, "Thousands parade downtown in show of support for KNON", which in the communist People's Daily World, New York, was transformed into "Groups protest rightist bid to take over radio station" (via Malcolm Kaufman and Owen Williamson)

(via Kraig W Krist) Due to the negative news stories about a "Yahweh" sect based in Florida, Elder Jacob O Meyer of WMLK issued an open letter to Newsweek Nov 12 making clear it's no relation to them..

(Charles Weiss, S Euclid OH) Old Time Radio: CKLW-800 Windsor Ont, UTC Mons 0000. WBBM-780 Chicago IL UTC Tue-Sat 02-03; WHAM-1180 Rochester NY UTC Tue-Sat 03-04.

(Inside Radio, a trade newsletter, via Denver Post Nov 28, via Gene Martin, via IRCA DX Monitor Dec 27) A struggling, low-power Philadelphia AM stn [900 kHz], WDVT, is (presenting) a gay-oriented radio show Saturday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:30. Station owner Frank Ford doesn't care whether it offends anyone ("that's their problem, not mine"). The first show started with the disclaimer: "The following show is close-captioned for the heteroxexually impaired". Whether it's your favorite format or not, such specialization is the future of AM. Highly segmented formats like, but not limited to gay radio, will be more prevalent by next year at this time.

(Tim Hendel, Miami FL) That may be the first main-line AM station to broadcast a gay program, but there are others. In 1982 I was in Minneapolis, and heard KFAI, free-form public access FM station, "Fresh Air Radio" with a program by and for gays called FRESH FRUIT [90.3 MHz]. Also, in Los Angeles I heard a program for gays, on am FM station, which had a lot of foreign language and other unusual programs; not sure of call letters.

J S S R [Cf DXLD-11 p 14] If RMWS is trying to impress its listeners with WARMONGERS MONTHLY, I think they fail miserably, It's an interesting concept, but unfortunately it falls flat. They try to get their views across using a mixture of irony and humour, but the mixture of cold war rhetoric and attempted humour becomes unintentionally funny, sometimes absurd (Fred Waterer, Jan DX Ontario)

gh: Based on the previously observed times I was looking for it in late Dec & early Jan, when of course it did not materialize; instead I caught it by chance when checking for PROGRAM GUIDE, Sat Jan 3 at 1511--"Alice in Invisiland" by "Ronald Weindexter" about the scale model kit of the Stealth bomber being on sale in the US; featured Northrup the Magician, etc. Yes, it falls flat, but even an attempt at humor on RMWS is to be cherished. They said the next edition would be Jan 30 "at the same times"--trouble is, that's a Friday and I heard it on a Saturday. Good luck! Many thanks to Alan Roe, UK for putting together the RMWS block schedule. He seems to have rounded off times to nearest even minute. Unfortunately, shortly afterwards RMWS made some changes, such as moving FOCUS ON ASIA up to :11 past the hour, at least on weekdays, suchas 1511, and renaming it FOCUS ON ASIA & THE PACIFIC.

(via Kraig W Krist) A newer R Tashkent program schedule, for "winter" shows one addition to that in RIB 114: SPORTS PAGE--review of sports events, on the first Friday of the month in the 1200 broadcast.
V A T I C A N Sat WITH HEART & MIND; Sun THE POPE, THE CHURCH & THE WORLD; Mon A MANY-SPLENDOURED THING; Tue TALKING POINT; Wed THE POPE & THE PEOPLE; Thu STUDIO 3; Fri CHURCH TODAY; Daily NEWSDESK.

FEBRUARY PREVIEW

BBC WORLD SERVICE

FEATURES

The European Community

Thirty years ago, six European nations laid the foundation for today's European Community. France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg formed the European Economic Community, and also a nuclear power organisation, known as Euratom. There was already a European Coal and Steel Community in existence, and these three institutions began to work together in a framework which included a Commission, a Council of Ministers, a Parliament, and a Court of Justice.

In 1970 Britain, the Irish Republic and Denmark joined the Community, making it a group of nine. Since then, the group has grown to 12 with the accession to the Treaty of Rome of Greece, Spain, and Portugal.

This series presents portraits of Britain's 11 Community partners today, both as individual nations and as members of a great political and economic experiment.

Suns 1915 rep Mons 0101, Fris 1515

Computer World

Under the spotlight is the rapidly developing field of information technology. Each programme has been designed to bring listeners up to date on the latest developments, and the series will also assess some of the implications of the growing convergence of computers and information technology.

Mons 1615, rep Mons 2315, Tues 0145, 0730

Not So Long Ago — HIGHLIGHT

"You are to be the architects of a better world. In your hands rests our future. We must make certain by your work here that another war will be impossible." Harry S Truman, April 1945.

The final defeat of Nazi Germany was only weeks away when US President Truman addressed a conference to draw up the United Nations Charter. His words summed up the hopes of mankind. But the formula for lasting world peace was to prove elusive. In the intervening years several million soldiers and civilians have died during 300 armed conflicts.

The creation of the UN, with its aspirations for a better world, is the starting point for this further series of *Not So Long Ago*. Over the next two months **Geoffrey Stern** will be looking back through archive recordings at some of the critical events and issues which have shaped our lives since 1945. Also featured this month will be *The Greek Civil War 1946-9* ***8th,*** *The Anglo-Iranian Oil Crisis 1951-4* ***15th*** and *From Cold War to Austrian Neutrality 1955* ***22nd.***

Suns 2330, rep Mons 0630, 1001, 1515

Musician of Words: Alexander Pushkin

Alexander Pushkin died in a duel 150 years ago. Hero of his native Russia to this day, he was a poet, dramatist and prose writer of genius. Without him, the great tradition of Russian literature in the later 19th century could not have flowered as it did.

Yet much of his work – particularly the poems – remains elusive to non-Russian speakers, although he is widely read in translation, and many of his writings have been set to music, as operas and songs. Indeed, his poems themselves have been compared to Mozart's music.

In two programmes, **Miriam Newman** looks at his life, his work and the spirit of his times in Russia, where countless people can still recite his much-loved verses from memory.

Suns 15th and 22nd 1615, rep Tues 17th and 24th 2330 and Thurs 19th and 26th 0330

Zoowalk – Berlin — HIGHLIGHT

Ken Jackson and thick-skinned friend.

Berlin boasts two zoological gardens which rank among the best in the world. One, the Tierpark in the eastern half of the city, has a unique role in the captive breeding programmes of both eastern bloc and western zoos. The other is the Zoologischer Garten in West Berlin, and **Ken Jackson** and **Christopher Marler** visit both in this series of six programmes, looking in detail at some of the inhabitants and at the zoos' role in today's conservation scene.

Mons 1115, rep Tues 0815, Fris 0215

Assignment

It is a year since Ferdinand Marcos left the presidential palace in Manila. Mass demonstrations called for the installation of Corezon Aquino, following elections which had appeared to deny the Philippines the candidate of its choice.

Twelve months on, **Kari Blackburn** has been back to the country, and her report on Mrs Aquino's first presidential year is one of the features in Assignment this month.

Weds 2030, rep Thurs 0230, 1130, 1615

The Change Business

The world is going through a new industrial revolution which will last for another 20 or 30 years, according to British government economic adviser Sir Douglas Hague. And as with all revolutions there will be casualties along the way, ranging from individual workers to major companies.

Sir Douglas runs the Strategic Leadership course at Templeton College, Oxford along with his colleague Norman Strauss. **Michael Kaye** has been allowed to record the often-hectic proceedings, as groups of senior managers wrestle with the thorny questions posed. How should today's industrial leaders respond to the challenge of rapid technological change?

The answers offered by the businessmen themselves offer a glimmer of hope in this uncertain period for world trade.

Sun 1st 1615, rep Tues 3rd 2330, Thurs 5th 0330

A Cotswold Carpenter

In his declining years Christopher Elderfield used to regale friends with stories of his past. They were fascinating because of the times they described and amusing because of his attitude to life, and he was persuaded to write them down. Extracts from his book *Christopher Elderfield: One of the Old Contemptibles* are read in four parts by **Bob Arnold.** Adapted and produced by Michael Ford.

Tues 2101, rep Weds 0430, 1115

Mary Queen of Scots

"The little Queen of Scots is the most perfect child I have ever seen," said Henry II of France.

Mary Stuart was born in December 1542 and became Queen of Scotland six days later. She was beheaded on February 8th 1587 at the instigation of the English Queen, her cousin Elizabeth I.

What passed in the intervening 44 years makes a fascinating story indeed. This programme marks the anniversary of the execution of one of the most tragic figures in British history.

Sun 8th 1615, rep Tues 10th 2330, Thurs 12th 0330

Technologies for the 21st Century

Will unlimited power from nuclear fusion become a reality?

Will silicon chips be reduced to molecular dimensions?

Will remote sensing satellites reveal undreamt-of Earth resources?

Will alcohol or hydrogen power our cars?

All these are questions which will be answered early in the next century by technologies being developed today. We talk to the men involved in our Science Unit's new weekly series of interviews.

From 11th Weds 1715, rep Thurs 0145, 0945

Quote, Unquote

The popular panel game has **Nigel Rees** in the chair playing host to actress **Eleanor Bron,** columnist **Auberon Waugh,** journalist and broadcaster **Chantal Cuer** and actor and comedian **Roy Kinnear** ***1st;*** Liberal Party leader the Rt Hon **David Steel,** quote-collector **Gemma O'Connor,** disc jockey **John Peel** and theatre critic **Sheridan Morley** ***8th;*** diplomat **Sir David Hunt,** actor **Peter Jeffrey,** journalist **Miles Kington** and possibly the greatest cricketer in the history of the universe **Fred Trueman** ***15th;*** and actress **Patricia Hodge,** broadcaster **Irene Thomas,** writer **Peter Tinniswood** and comedian **Ernie Wise** ***22nd***

Suns 1830 rep Mons 1215, Weds 0830

My Word!

Michael O'Donnell takes the chair once more for another series of the game in which Dilys Powell and Frank Muir challenge Antonia Fraser and Denis Norden on just about every aspect of words.

Suns 0330 rep Mons 1715, Weds 1030

FEBRUARY PREVIEW

DRAMA

Three Stories by Dorothy L Sayers

Montague Egg is a commercial traveller representing Messrs Plummet and Rose, wine merchants of Piccadilly, London. By curious coincidence he often appears on the scene after a murder has been committed, and puts his skills as an amateur detective to good use.

Murder in the Morning: A fellow-commercial traveller has warned Monty that he'll be wasting his time if he calls on Humphrey Pinchbeck. And he's right – for when Monty arrives at Pinchbeck's remote country cottage he finds him lying dead on the kitchen floor.

The Poisoned Dow '08: It looks bad for Plummet and Rose when Monty calls at Lord Borrowdale's house. For his lordship has just been found dead, shortly after drinking a glass of the firm's celebrated port – the Dow '08.

Sleuths on the Scent: A man is wanted by the police for the murder of Alice Steward. The description of the man could fit any of the commercial travellers gathered in the bar of the Pig and Pewter inn – including Monty.

The reader is **Geoffrey Beevers,** producer Mitch Raper.

Suns 0215 rep 2209, Mons 1445, Fris 0945 until 15th

The Wind in the Willows

The story so far: Ever since that day when he said to himself "Hang spring-cleaning" and left home to live with Rat in his "bijou riverside residence", Mole has plunged into a whole new lifestyle – that of the riverbank. And through his new friend, "the masterful rat", Mole now rejoices in the friendship of Otter, Badger and Toad.

Bernard Cribbins reads further instalments from Kenneth Grahame's classic book, abridged in twelve episodes by Angela Thomae.

Mons 0430, rep 0815, Fris 2145

After Henry

A new series of this gentle comedy about Sarah (Henry's widow) her teenage daughter Clare and elderly mother Eleanor. They all live in separate flats within the same house, so that they can be independent of each other – well, that's the idea. But the mother/daughter relationship is a complex one from which, for some, it is almost impossible to escape!

With **Prunella Scales** as Sarah France, **Joan Saunderson** as Eleanor, **Benjamin Whitrow** as Russell and **Gerry Cowper** as Clare.

Weds 1530 rep Thurs 0030, 1030

Intimate Exchanges

HIGHLIGHT

Play of the Week

When Alan Ayckbourn first presented his *Intimate Exchanges* at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round in Scarborough in 1983, it was greeted, quite rightly, as one of the most daring theatrical projects ever attempted. For it is not one play but eight, each with an alternative ending. Moreover the characters, some of whom appear in all the plays, and others in just a few, are intended to be played by just two people, which makes enormous demands on any actors foolhardy enough to make the attempt.

Our version consists of four ninety-minute plays: *Events on a Hotel Terrace, A Game of Golf, A Pageant* and *Love in the Mist,* starring the two actors, **Robin Herford** and **Lavinia Bertram,** who performed the plays with such success at Scarborough, Greenwich, and later London's West End.

At the start of each play a woman is faced with a fairly trivial decision; should she, or should she not break a self-imposed ban and smoke a cigarette? As the plays progress, other people are faced with decisions of increasing importance; depending on the choices they make, the characters, while remaining true to themselves, end up differently in each play.

By the end of four weeks the gentle and hopelessly ineffectual Miles Coombes, Celia Teasdale and her caustic-tongued husband Tony, the ever-optimistic school caretaker Lionel Hepplewick and his long-suffering girlfriend Sylvie and other equally unforgettable characters should seem like personal friends. *Intimate Exchanges* is abridged and produced for radio by Gordon House.

Sats (ex 1st) 1930, rep Suns 0030, 1130

Only two can play: Robin Herford and Lavinia Bertram as (from left) Miles Coombes, Rowena Coombes, Josephine Hamilton, Joe Hepplewick, Lionel Hepplewick, Reg Schooner, Sylvie Bell, Irene Pridworthy, Celia Teasdale and Toby Teasdale.

Good Books

Historian and former Conservative Member of Parliament the **Hon C M Woodhouse** chooses Richard Hughes' novel, *A Fox in the Attic* ***2nd.*** **David Atkins** is executive director of the National Theatre, and his choice is *If not now, when?,* a novel by Italian writer Primo Levi which pays tribute to the Jews who fought back against the Holocaust in the Second World War ***9th.***

Minister for Roads and Traffic **Peter Bottomley** selects David Caute's latest novel *News from Nowhere* ***16th,*** while leading barrister **Robert Alexander** opts for *Fifth Business,* the first in the "Deptford Trilogy" by Robertson Davies ***23rd.***

Mons 0315 rep 0915, Weds 1945, 2315

Short Story

The shifting relationships between father and son are captured in games of *Ping Pong,* the Harry Barton story which starts off the month ***1st.***

George and Emily are a contented couple until she starts to learn ballroom dancing. The story is set in Malaysia and is by Mavis Jones, a listener in Kuala Lumpur ***8th.***

There's humour and tragedy in *A Cry from the Heart,* set in small-town USA. The story is by Michael D Langen, a listener in Washington DC ***15th.***

The Coopers are in their eighties, and have come to spend their annual holiday on the East African coast. But they have a guilty secret. *Crossing the Reef* is by Douglas Nicholls ***22nd.***

Suns 1001, rep 2101, Tues 0130

Hotel du Lac

HIGHLIGHT

Anita Brookner's stylish and maliciously witty novel, a Booker prize-winner, is set in the ultra-quiet Swiss hotel from which it takes its title. "Certain doctors knew it. Those families who benefit from the periodic absence of one of their more troublesome members treasured it..."

To this hotel comes Edith Hope, respectable writer of romantic fiction, and judged by her friends to be a serious person. What is the unfortunate lapse that has led to her temporary exile? **Anna Massey** reads the first of a 14-part serialisation.

From 22nd Suns 0215 rep 2209, Mons 1445, Fris 0945

Jude the Obscure

Aunt Drusilla had often warned Jude against marrying – the Fawleys had always made bad marriages, she said. But Jude has been tricked into marrying Arabella, and the marriage is a disaster. What's more, it has ruined his chances of studying at the great university of Christminster. But before long Arabella leaves him, and now he's free to take up his studies again...

Suns 1430, rep Mons 0730, Tues 1030, Weds 0230

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ENGLAND

FEBRUARY PREVIEW

MUSIC

Loved by the Gods

Roger Nichols presents a radio biography of Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), from his childhood in Berlin through his travels and meetings with notable personalities of the time to his early death in Leipzig. He argues that Mendelssohn was not so much a precocious youngster who "burned himself out" as a composer of consistent genius.

The 13 programmes will draw on Mendelssohn's voluminous and amusing correspondence and will be illustrated by music, both well-known and less familiar, from his youthful works to the late masterpieces.

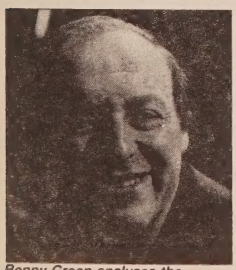
From 23rd Mons 0145, rep Tues 0430, 1445, Fris 0815

Just a Little Ol' Tune

Too marvellous for words; Hooray for Hollywood; Fools rush in; Day in, day out; Blues in the night; One for my baby; Laura – just some of the many songs written by Johnny Mercer. When he died on June 26th, 1976, the world lost one of the most talented and prolific lyricists ever.

In a series of six 30-minute programmes, **Benny Green** talks about Johnny Mercer and what he represented, helped by recordings of the song-writer himself.

From 23rd Mons 1330, Tues 0030, Thurs 1001



Benny Green analyses the magic of Mercer.

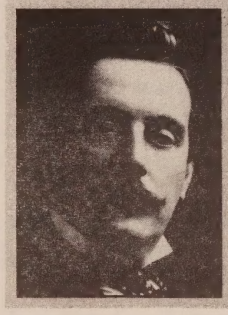
The Music of Work

Worksongs can ease the tedium of a repetitive task or help to maintain the rhythm of manual teamwork, such as hauling in fishing nets. Some have almost magical properties, for example those used as charms to ensure a good harvest. And then there is the more recent industrial worksong, sung by bands of navvies, miners or factory-hands.

Kevin Crossley-Holland plays recordings from all over the world in a series of six programmes, including *Fishermen and Divers* ***1st;*** *Hunters and Herders* ***7th;*** *Sowers and Reapers* ***14th;*** *Spinners and Weavers* ***21st*** and *Miners and Builders* ***28th.*** Producer Ian Gardhouse.

Sats 2101 rep Suns 0945, Weds 1515, Fris 0530

Puccini and his World HIGHLIGHT



The life of the great composer Giacomo Puccini is the classic story of "poor boy makes good". He came from a long line of talented musicians of humble origins in the northern Italian city of Lucca. Thanks to the determination of his widowed mother he found a route to fame through the Conservatory of Music in Milan, and with *La Bohème,* first performed in 1896, he became a world figure.

Julian Budden tells the fascinating story of Puccini – the struggles, the triumphs, the doubts and the failures – and illustrates it with music from his operas, some of the most tuneful and appealing ever written.

Tues 0830, rep Fris 0230, 1715

Kings of Swing

DATE: August 21st, 1935. PLACE: Palomar Ballroom, Hollywood, Los Angeles. On this night the age of swing was born. Benny Goodman's band was on the stand. Drummer Gene Krupa remembers: "We played the first couple of sets under wraps. We weren't getting much reaction so Benny, I guess, decided to hell with playing it safe, and we started playing numbers like *King Porter Stomp.* Well, from then on we were in! "The audience went wild, and the shouts and cheers were broadcast right across the USA.

The wonderful musical world that followed is reflected in this series, in which **Malcolm Laycock** picks out the records that made history and yet live on today. Goodman is featured on the ***28th,*** preceded by Bob Crosby ***7th,*** Tommy Dorsey ***14th*** and Duke Ellington ***21st.***

Sats 2115, rep Mons 1545, Tues 0945

The Pleasure's Yours

Expect a few surprises when **Gordon Clyde** celebrates the classical request programme's 650th anniversary, including some special guests ***1st.***

Suns 0815, rep 2115, Thurs 1515

Concert Hall

Belshazzar's Feast by Walton starts off the month, with a new recording of this choral extravaganza by baritone Benjamin Luxon with the Brighton Festival Chorus and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by André Previn ***1st.*** This is followed by Tallis's *40-part Motet,* with William Byrd's *Five-part Mass* and music from the Russian Orthodox Church, sung by the Tallis Scholars, directed by Peter Phillips ***8th.***

Sibelius's *Third Symphony* is performed by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under conductor Neeme Järvi, with *Festival Prelude* by little-known Estonian composer Eduard Tubin ***15th.*** And Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* rounds off the month, with highlights from a performance conducted by Sir Georg Solti to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of Pushkin, on whose literary masterpiece the opera is based.

Suns 1515 rep Tues 2115

Pierre Fournier

The celebrated French cellist died last year at the age of 79, and the second half of our series reflects more of Fournier's wide-ranging repertoire. Included are excerpts from Bach's *Suite no 2 in D minor, BWV1008;* Beethoven's *Sonata in C, op 102 no 1* and Boccherini's *Concerto in B flat* ***2nd;*** Poulenc's *Sonata;* Fauré's *Berceuse* and Lalo's *Concerto in D minor* ***9th;*** and Chopin's *Sonata in G minor, op 65* and *Nocturne op 9 no 2* and Haydn's *Cello Concerto in D* ***16th.***

Mons 0145 until 16th, rep Tues 0430, 1445, Fris 0815

Nashville Cats

More new sounds from Nashville, Tennessee, the capital of country music; this month **Bob Kilbey** features music from the Judds ***1st,*** Dwight Yoakum ***8th,*** Barbara Mandrell ***15th*** and the Oak Ridge Boys ***22nd.***

Suns 0430 rep Thurs 1445, Fris 0730

From the Proms '86

The last in our series of recordings from Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, held at London's Royal Albert Hall last year, features Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements,* performed by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under conductor Sir Colin Davis.

1st 0030, 1130

Music for the Sun King

Nicholas Anderson continues his series marking the 300th anniversary of the death of Jean-Baptiste Lully, composer to Louis XIV of France, with profiles of Lully's rivals in Paris, including Marc-Antoine Charpentier and Michel-Richard de Lalande.

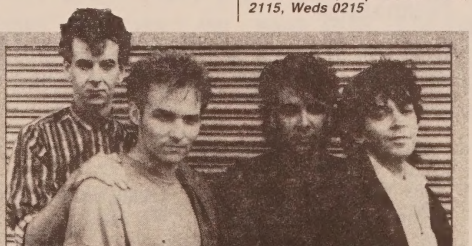
Sats 1115, rep Mons 1630, 2115, Weds 0215

HIGHLIGHT

The Alternative Proms

Some of the best bands to emerge on the British music scene are showcased this month. Among them is Cutting Crew, featuring the dynamic vocals of Nick van Eede. The band had its first top ten British hit with *I just died in your arms tonight* at the end of last year, and has recently released its debut album *Broadcast.* A fitting title for this live concert, specially recorded for the BBC at the Astoria Theatre, London ***7th.***

Sats 0330 rep Mons 1030, 2130



RADIO MOSCOW WORLD SERVICE (to 28 Mar 87)

UTC	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
0010	[N E W S A N D V I E W S ----------						]
0032	++++++++++	RUSSIAN BY RADIO	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++
0110	USSR-LOOKING TO THE 3rd MILLENIUM	[S O V I E T W A Y O F L I F E ----------					] YOUR GUIDE TO OUR PROGRAMMES
0132	[F O C U S O N A S I A ----------						]
0210	PARADE	USSR-LOOK TO 3rd MILLENIUM	[N E W S R E E L ----------				]
0232	RECORD PLAY-OFF :45 MARXISM TODAY	AUDIO BOOK CLUB	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++
0310	[DISARMAMENT - THE ISSUES] [OF THE	DAY.]	[T H E W A Y W E S E E I T ----------				]
0332	RUSSIAN BY RADIO	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	AUDIO BOOK CLUB
0410	[N E W S A N D V I E W S ----------						]
0432	AUDIO BOOK CLUB	MAILBAG	CULTURE AND THE ARTS	SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	ROUND ABOUT THE USSR	USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM	PARADE
0510	USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM	PARADE	[N E W S R E E L ----------				]
0532	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++
0610	LISTENERS FORUM	[S O V I E T W A Y O F L I F E ----------					] GUIDE TO PROGRAMMES
0632	YOUR TOP TUNE :45 MARXISM TODAY	AUDIO BOOK CLUB	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++
0710	[N E W S A N D V I E W S ----------						]
0732	FOLK BOX	JAZZ SHOW	FOR YOUR ASKING	MUSIC AT YOUR REQUEST % LISTENERS REQUEST CLUB	FOLK BOX	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS	AUDIO BOOK CLUB
0810	DISARMAMENT-ISSUE OF DAY	USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM	[T H E W A Y W E S E E I T ----------				]
0832	AUDIO BOOK CLUB	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++
0910	PARADE	DISARMAMENT-ISSUE OF DAY	[N E W S R E E L ----------				]
0932	RECORD PLAY-OFF :45 MARXISM TODAY	CULTURE AND THE ARTS	SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	ROUND ABOUT THE USSR	USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM	PARADE	MAILBAG
1010	USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM	[S O V I E T W A Y O F L I F E ----------					] GUIDE TO PROGRAMMES
1032	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++
1110	[N E W S A N D V I E W S ----------						]
1132	FOR YOUR ASKING	FOR YOU ASKING	MUSIC AT YOUR REQ. % LIST. REQUEST CLUB	FOLK BOX	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS	JAZZ SHOW	RUSSIAN BY RADIO
1210	LISTENERS FORUM	DISARMAMENT-ISSUE OF DAY	[N E W S R E E L ----------				]
1232	YOUR TOP TUNE :45 MARXISM TODAY	SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	ROUND ABOUT THE USSR	USSR-LOOKING TO THE 3rd MILLENIUM	PARADE	MAILBAG	CULTURE AND THE ARTS

UTC	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1310	DISARMAMENT-ISSUE OF DAY	[T H E W A Y W E S E E I T ----------]					++++++++++
1332	RUSSIAN BY RADIO	AUDIO BOOK CLUB	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	RECORD PLAY-OFF :45 MARXISM TODAY
1410	[N E W S A N D V I E W S ----------]						
1432	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS	MUSIC AT YOUR REQ. % LIST. REQUEST CLUB	FOLK BOX	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS	JAZZ SHOW	FOR YOUR ASKING	AUDIO BOOK CLUB
1510	PARADE	[S O V I E T W A Y O F L I F E ----------]					GUIDE TO PROGRAMMES
1532	[F O C U S O N A S I A ----------]						
1610	USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM	[N E W S R E E L ----------]					LISTENERS FORUM
1632	RECORD PLAY-OFF :45 MARXISM TODAY	ROUND ABOUT THE USSR	USSR-LOOKING TO THE 3rd MILLENIUM	PARADE	MAILBAG	CULTURE AND THE ARTS	SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
1710	DISARMAMENT-ISSUE OF DAY	[T H E W A Y W E S E E I T ----------]					USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM
1732	AUDIO BOOK CLUB	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	YOUR TOP TUNE :45 MARXISM TODAY
1810	[N E W S A N D V I E W S ----------]						
1832	JAZZ SHOW	FOLK BOX	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS	JAZZ SHOW	FOR YOUR ASKING	MUSIC AT YOUR REQ. % LIST. REQUEST CLUB	RUSSIAN BY RADIO
1910	LISTENERS FORUM	[N E W S R E E L ----------]					DISARMAMENT-ISSUE OF DAY
1932	YOUR TOP TUNE :45 MARXISM TODAY	USSR-LOOKING TO THE 3rd MILLENIUM	PARADE	MAILBAG	CULTURE AND THE ARTS	SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	ROUND ABOUT THE USSR
2010	PARADE	[S O V I E T W A Y O F L I F E ----------]					GUIDE TO PROGRAMMES
2032	RUSSIAN BY RADIO	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	++++++++++	RECORD PLAY - OFF :45 MARXISM TODAY
2110	[N E W S A N D V I E W S ----------]						
2132	MUSIC AT YOUR REQ. % LIST. REQUEST CLUB	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS	JAZZ SHOW	FOR YOUR ASKING	MUSIC AT YOUR REQ. % LIST. REQUEST CLUB	FOLK BOX	AUDIO BOOK CLUB
2210	USSR-LOOK TO 3rdMILLENIUM	[T H E W A Y W E S E E I T ----------]					LISTENERS FORUM
2232	AUDIO BOOK CLUB	PARADE	MAILBAG	CULTURE AND THE ARTS	SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	ROUND ABOUT THE USSR	YOUR TOP TUNE :45 MARXISM TODAY
2310	LISTENERS FORUM	[N E W S R E E L ----------]					GUIDE TO OUR PROGRAMMES
2332	[F O C U S O N A S I A ----------]						

NOTES : NEWS on the hour][% = programme alternates
NEWS IN BRIEF on the half hour][++++++ = flexible programming
(Topical interviews and reports
music and feature programmes)

Typed by Alan Roe, UK (8 Dec 86)

The idea behind the invention of Dr. Robinson is the use of extremely resonant circuits, intentionally producing the prolongation of the response which is obtained in structures with bells, and the introduction of periodic stopping of the vibration, that is to introduce a device which does electronically just what the hand does in stopping the bell from continuing ringing, or what the dam-

radio equipment forum

Conducted by Loren Cox, Jr. 1106 Cleveland Ave.
Lexington, KY 40505

BACK IN THE LATTER 1950s, having been a shortwave listener for about 15 years - most intensively in the WWII years (despite receiver limitations) and later after leaving the military in 1953 when I recommenced this activity (first with an S38C and then with my first real radio, a HQ-150) - I felt a need for a new radio listening challenge - more of the RF spectrum to explore - i.e., the radio world below 10 meters (above 30 MHz). I had logged my 140 countries or so, enjoyed the BBC, Radio Japan; listened to hummy Radio Moscow with Sergey & Lucy (the latter is still to be heard on RMWS); and tuned to fluttery Radio Peking - just because it was China I was hearing, the frentic anti-imperialist rhetoric being unlistenable. But the megacycles beyond the 30 megacycle barrier were beckoning: I was hearing of strange things happening there, like television signals and the accompanying audio channels traversing the Atlantic from Great Britain & the Continent (there was a sun spot peak in '57-'58). I heard Hams on the HF bands talking about 6 Meter skip, and I read about police radio and all sorts of other services being receivable from coast to coast. And on beyond that good stuff there was the FM broadcast band (had no sort of "FM radio" at that time). From what was coming in on 10 Meters - all of Europe, the Pacific, Africa, South America plus the American West & Southwest (nearly all in beautiful full carrier AM) - I knew interesting things had to be up just ahead. But what about a receiver?

Not much on the market at that time. There was the Hallicrafters SX62/A, which had two VHF bands: 27-56 & 56-110 MHz (in addition to complete HF coverage). I had tried an SX62 at a local parts store and liked it, but opted for the Hammarlund because it was obviously superior as a Ham receiver - was considering trying for a "ticket" at the time. (The '62 had no bandspread and I thought names of countries all over the dial very unprofessional; also the BFO was fixed to a single offset frequency.) But I wish I could have afforded both the HQ-150 and the SX62; they would have made a nice pair. Some interesting receivers with VHF coverage had been on the market a few years before. Hallicrafters, in their "spanning the spectrum" move, had offered the S27/36 and S37 (pre-war designs); the former covered 27.5 to 145 MHz and the latter 130 to 210 MHz. The development of the "acorn" tube - the first "UHF" tube - circa 1936 (when everything above 30 MHz was called Ultra High Frequency) - made these receivers possible. A few of them were around on the surplus market for a while. National provided an interesting piece of equipment for the VHF explorer, their model HFS, a superhet with a regenerative second detector: it could be used either as a complete receiver or as a converter ahead of a HF receiver. Coverage was 25-250 MHz via plug-in coils. Don't remember if the "front end" used "acorn" tubes or 6AK5s. I wanted one of these receivers very badly back in the '50s (it was on the market from 1948-1951), but could never come up with one. I was also intrigued by (but could no way afford) a beautiful VHF inhaler by Eddystone of England, the 770R (tuned 25 to 165 MHz). A companion unit, the 770U, covered 150-500 MHz. The 770R/U receivers used coil turrets for band selection and were of the proverbial "like a battleship" construction. A solid-state version of the 770R, the 990R is, I believe still on the market; but it is very much antique technology when compared with the likes of even "consumer" equipment like the ICOM R-7000. I'd still take a 770R should someone proffer me one; it offered bandwidths just about right for the SCPC work I'm doing now. On the commercial/professional electronics market there have been "general coverage" VHF (& UHF) reveivers of which one with such a want could only dream. In the '50s/'60s there were Nemes-Clarke equipments; Eddystone & Watkins-Johnson continue to offer very expensive "surveillance" type VHF/UHF receivers, both synthesized and "conventional". Only within the past couple of years, with the introduction of the "general coverage" "scanner", has the radio hobbyist/monitor had available to him the sort of receiver I had wanted for so many years.

Probably the largest, most elaborate, VHF receiver of the vacuum tube era ever built was that 40 tube monster built for the military, the R220 - some may still be floating (hardly the word) around on the surplus market. Covered 20-237 MHz in 7 coil turret selected bands; was dual conversion with a push-pull pentode RF stage; received all modes with variable selectivity. I have the TM on this radio, which I like to look at just to admire the construction and detail of design - the most that could be wrought from vacuum tubes and metal for VHF monitoring. Would have lusted mightily for one of these radios back in the '50s had I been aware of their existence then.

Since nothing could be found (or afforded) when I initially was struck with the desire for a "general coverage" VHF receiver, the only solution was something of home construction. In the earlier radio epoch, VHF men "cut their teeth" on the superregenerative receiver, which was sensitive, efficient and simple enough to be constructed by almost any radio hobbyist. Construction articles for them were appearing still in the '50s & early '60s. My brother found one in Popular Electronics. We got it going on Boxing Day, 1958. The set consisted of a 12AT7, one triode being used as a grounded grid RF amp and the other as an audio amp, a 6AF4 superregen detector, plug in coils and a split-stator tuning

capacitor. Only detector coils needed as the RF amp was aperiodic. The first band checked was local FM broadcast, the signals, as with superregens, having to be slope detected. Aircraft Band traffic, which is AM, was loud & clear. BUT THE SURPRISE & DELIGHT CAME when, tuning the 30-50 MHz band, I encountered for the first time audio channels from British & Continental television. Had heard they were there but was amazed at hearing them with full quieting. The BBC was broadcasting boxing matches (it was Boxing Day). French & German language stations were also heard. But a superregenerator's performance, on the whole, is not very satisfactory (poor selectivity, poor FM detection). Pre-scanner type "police monitors" were to be had, but I wasn't much impressed with the cheap ones I could have afforded. So my pursuit of the megacycles above 30 was put on hold for a while (actually a number of years). In the mid-70s I picked up a 20-220 MHz RF tuner that was used in a piece of EMI equipment; and this was most propitious as the last big sunspot explosion was at hand. I used the "front end" of the device as a converter ahead of my FRG7, and in the latter '70s was rewarded with exciting intercontinental VHF skip as the MUF often soared above 60 MHz. Became a regular listener of BBC-TV's "News at 5:40"(as today I'm a viewer, via satellite, of ITV's "News at 5:45"). My brother devised a solid state IF strip for FM reception with this tuner, and that was our "general coverage" VHF receiver around here for several years (not wholly satisfactory) - until...

Until the manufacturers of Ham/radio hobbyist equipment (HF receivers, limited range VHF/UHF "scanners") began to market receivers offering continuous coverage of the VHF (and even UHF) spectrum - about 30 years after my initial desire for such a receiver. The first one to excite me was the JIL SX400 - unlike the many "scanners" on the market it looked like a "communications" receiver. But it lacked manual (tuning knob) frequency selection. The same was true of "general coverage" scanners like the Regency MX5000 & MX7000. With the announcement of the Yaesu FRG9600 the manufacturers were getting very close to what I wanted: here was a manually tunable (as well as programmable) wide range VHF monitor receiver with full "communications receiver" functions. Unfortunately - I cannot understand why - the Yaesu receiver does not cover "Low Band VHF" - i.e., the 30-60 Mhz range, commencing coverage at 60 MHz. Admittedly a number of services that formerly were on this band have moved to "High Band VHF" and even UHF, but in a few years, as sunspot numbers increase, this band will again become active with continental & intercontinental skip - and there are still domestic users of this band. Still, I considered getting this receiver until I realized I would have to have coverage down to 50 MHz for SCPC satellite monitoring. Now did my heart leap up when I beheld the initial ads announcing the ICOM IC-R7000. This looked like, finally, the type of receiver I had been wanting since the 1950s - designed & built according to the latest receiver technology. The VHF/UHF monitoring community was very excited by this receiver - and frustrated at the seemingly interminable length of time it took for any to appear on dealers' shelves. I understand there are still waiting lists. And the longer the delay the higher the price got as the $ declined in value vis-à-vis the ¥. There is also a possibility that some fool legislation might make it illegal even to have such a receiver. So I determined I should have one of these boxes, which I found in stock at Amateur Electronic Supply.

THE R7000 is the most sophisticated, widest frequency coverage receiver of its type ever offered on the consumer (Ham/hobbyist radio listener) market. Frequency range is 25 to 999.999 MHz (continuous). A 25 MHz gap interrupts the coverage at this point; it is then continuous from 1025 to 1999.-999 MHz with "specifications guaranteed from 1240 to 1300 MHz". This presumably refers to the "sensitivity" figure, which is quoted for both "wide" & "narrow" selectivity ("less than" 1 uv/.5 uv for 12 db SINAD in the FM mode. Commendable "AM" & "SSB" figures are also quoted.) Totally synthesized, tuning rates as fine as 100 Hz are available throughout the tuning range. Frequency stability is given as ±5 ppm in the temperature range of 0-50 degrees (C) on the U/V ranges and ±10 ppm on the "microwave" range. The circuit is dual or triple conversion on U/V, and triple or quadruple conversion above 1GHz, depending upon the mode/selectivity chosen. Detector circuits are provided for FM ("wide" & "narrow"), full-carrier AM & SSBSC. Selectivity figures (quoted for only -6 db) are: 15 kHz for "AM" & NBFM - selectivity for these modes can be narrowed further to 6 kHz. "Wideband" FM selectivity (@ -6 db) is 150 kHz. Selectivity in the "SSB" mode is 2.8 kHz. These selectivities are suitable for most, but by no means all, of the transmissions to be found in the receiver's frequency range (e.g., those of the NOAA weather satellites in the 137 MHz band); but that does not prevent reception, just renders it somewhat less than optimum. If selectivities (in the "FM" mode) of about 40 & 80 kHz were also available the situation would be close to ideal - that is certainly true for the "specilized" use I have been making of this receiver, that is as an "IF tuner" for the reception of SCPC signals from Clarke Belt satellites. Filter substitutions could no doubt be effectuated for special applications: for my purposes, replacing the "wide" (150 kHz) FM filter with one providing about ½ of that bandwidth would be helpful. I don't need this receiver for broadcast (88-108 MHz) reception - where the wide FM bandwidth is required. Actually, the R7000's performance on the FM Broadcast Band is less than superlative because of overloading from the high-powered locals. An "attenuator" (-20 db) is provided, but, of course, that reduces sensitivity. So don't look to this receiver as an "FM Band" DXing machine unless you're a fair distance from high powered stations. Indeed, I would recommend an 88-108 MHz trap to keep possible FM Broadcast interference off other frequencies of interest. Manual/scanning tuning rates of .1, 1, 5, 10, 12.5 & 25 kHz are provided. 99 memory channels are available. All frequencies (to 100 Hz resolution) are available via keyboard en-

try. Six scanning functions are available, most of which I have not as yet bothered to make use of. Appears to do everything in respect to "scanning" that a "scanner" enthusiast could want. In order to prevent locking up on "birdies" when scanning a particular range of frequencies for activity, a control can be activated which will cause the receiver to ignore all signals except those with audible modulation. There are "birdies", of course, which have been the bane of some otherwise excellent scanners, but none are a problem as I have yet met them. The tuning meter can be used to indicate either signal strength (relative) or center-of-channel. A noise blanker is available for use in the "AM" & "SSB" modes. A synthesized voice frequency readout and a wireless remote control are available as accessories. Unfortunately the ICOM battery problem has been built into this receiver: "After a battery wears out, data disappear in all the memory channels and the memory channels revert to a blank status. If there is any sign of battery wear...contact the retail store where your purchase was made or contact your nearest ICOM Service Center." Presumably (?) the receiver is still functional, but no memorization possible. Battery life is the nominal 5 years.

Carillons & trumpets - of which this receiver has more than its share - aside, how good a receiver is the R7000? Not having the appropriate test equipment, I cannot give you a laboratory report. On an indoor vertical antenna sensitivity seems entirely adequate. USA & USSR environmental satellites operating in the 137-138 MHz band are received at times with full quieting. High Band ground VHF transmitters 80 or more miles distant can be heard. The receiver's chief deficiency, not unsurprisingly, is in the area of RF dynamic range, as evinced by the mixer collapse produced by strong local FM broadcast stations. But this problem is confined pretty much to the "FM Band" itself. One more control which the receiver should have but does not is an RIT - mainly in order to maintain exact frequency calibration. No problem with frequency stability. The receiver runs quite warm, becoming hot to the touch across the back. A whisper fan like the one I use to cool the satellite receiver would be desirable. According to their ads, EEB have a modification to alleviate this. We have an external antenna for this receiver - a Discone - for this receiver (was used a few years ago with the 20-220 MHz tuner referred to above). Just a matter of getting it back up, and, if I can, removing the R7000 from Clarke Belt receiving system.

Observations from any R7000 users will be most welcome. Yours (cf. S2575) in criminality!

IN THE EARLY POST-WAR YEARS there was available on the consumer market VHF receivers, continuously tunable from 44 to 216 MHz, capable of receiving all audio & video signals in the tuning range. Nothing really special: just television sets manufactured by DuMont, Crosley & others. Tuning began at 44 MHz to accomodate the auncient Channel 1. What made this sort of continuous tuning range possible was a simple and reliable variable inductor called the Mallory Inductuner. [Dammit! / was all set for Gorb's speech @ 1800 this day (22/10) on G2/11 - there was a switch to Soviet TV following the feed for NHK from Eurovision sources, a nice program of folkdance/mx coming up - when just before time for ole Scarhead New York took down the circuit and put up an American Soap. Some sat/transponder scanning revealed M.G. on W3/5.] This device makes possible the continuous tuning of a wide frequency range in the VHF (or UHF) region without bandswitching. But the American public decided they preferred switch type tuners - never very reliable - for their TV sets, so the inductuner and TV sets that covered more that TV disappeared. The Mallory Inductuner is still used in specialized communications equipment (two were used in my surplus 20-220 MHz tuner). The original inductuner required 10 turns of rotation, a shorting trolly riding on it to change the inductance. A later inductuner was a spiral type requiring up to 6 turns of the shorting arm. An early "VHF converter" experiment here involved using a Crosley TV tuner with a spiral inductuner ahead of the HQ-150 (tuned to the 25 MHz IF output). The job was to be completed with a NBFM adaptor for the HQ-150; which was never constructed. Have a beautifully constructed TV tuner with a 10 turn inductuner in a cast aluminium housing with the associated dial/tuning mechanism.

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AND NOW TO THE MAILBAG (no, don't quite require a mailbag yet, but more of you are writing, sending clippings, and we very much appreciate it). First, Hugh Miller, WA, seems to have anticipated our "Dogs & Diamonds" poll, as this was received before he could have been aware of it:

> More feedback on "I never met a radio I didn't like":
>
> When I read this I immediately recalled some of the infamous "dogs" of the past. For example, the 3 band 0.5-30 MHz Ecophone, some of those godawful Hallicrafters junk sets of the 1950s (a shortwave/medium wave clock radio with a 5 tube "ac/dc" circuit and names like Berlin, Mozambique, Australia randomly positioned on the dial), transistor portables with a 4-12 MHz band with markings like 6-9-12 MHz, and lastly, Radio Shack's most recent bombs, the DX-100 or DX300/302. Who would want to have to use this trash?
>
> Or - how about National's WRR-2, from the late 1950s, 2-30 MHz, only weighs 300 lbs?
>
> You spoke of the SX-62 as being a highly desirable set. I think this is another dog, built to lure the unknowledgeable and gullible. Poor calibration, no BFO or selectivity control - large mass and weight are a real bad combination.
>
> Re the S-38: My first receiver was a lafayette KT-200. Years later I realized its styling was a copy from the S-38 idea; however the whole receiver, styling nad circuit, was a great improvement over the S-38. The KT-200, also called, I think, the HE-10, cost $64.50 in 1961. My dad picked it

out of a comparison article in that grand old magazine, Radio-TV Experimenter. I think if you have a chance to see an old ad for this rec'r you'll immediately recognize where its styling came from. This receiver, unlike some later Japanese products, actually used a heavy metal chassis and cabnet. I went on as I learned more, replaced the old dud tubes with newer ones, and changed the BFO into a Q-multiplier. I got a good amount of DX with that set. An antenna between the tops of two tall alder trees at the top of a hill helped a bit. Over the years I became disillusioned with the set's drift and the weakness of the string-drive dial system. Remembering this, I never long to own one again.

I wish my dad had gotten me a used BC-348 for the same price; even then, as a beginner, I think I would have recognized the quality of construction. But neither of us were aware of the sources for used equipment. Perhaps this is a clue as to why I own so many BC-348s today - also an ARR-15, HRO, RA-1, etc. etc. etc.

I think my favorite receivers, tho', are the ones built especially for SWLs. There were a very limited number of these models built, which is also an interesting factor. I mean such equipment as the HQ-225, SB-310, SX-190, SW-4. Probably these sets began somewhat pre-WWII with rare consoles with spread bands. After WWII there were the Trans-Oceanics and their many copies. These are nice looking radios, too, but the tube models have only one IF stage, so the selectivity is a little marginal, and using them, for exapmle, on 49 meters in the evening, is something of a trial.

This kind of SWL-use radio continues in models such as the RF-11, but as the cost of complex circuitry continues to fall, they surely will become a thing of the past in favor of digital synthesized all-band receivers.

Yes, Hugh, I remember when Hams wanted to put down a receiver they would refer to it as an "Echophone" - the ultimate insult. Remember a fellow who, when his NC300 turned out to be less than he had expected, talked about his "Echophone 300". Toward the end, Hallicrafters were importing from Japan some less than admirable products, and many transistor radios of the time (and later) with "shortwave coverage" were certainly schlock. Some of Radio Shack's lamentable shortwave entries have been hard to explain; the DX300/302 could just as easily have been a winner. I think. Hugh, you're being a bit unfair to the SX-62/A. The receiver was certainly not intended for the professional user of HF/VHF receivers or the DXing fanatic. It was marketed as a quality "entertainment" radio based on "communications receiver" designs of the time: it was basically the SX-42 sans some "communications receiver" functions, most notably, bandspread. The SX-62/A had a BFO but no pitch control; was fixed at an 1 kHz offset, on the low side, as I remember. Six degrees of selectivity were available: Normal (Broad/Medium/Sharp) and Crystal (Broad/Medium/Sharp). A 500 kHz calibrator was incorporated: the dial pointer position could be corrected in order to maintain dial calibration for a particular band. The SX-62/A's major operational deficiency was the absence of bandspread. Realignment was usually necessary for the best performance. The 10 watt output stage produced outstanding audio. Because of its extended frequency range, it was not uncommon to find SX-62s in RF propagation research facilities. I still feel a mint SX-62/A (or SX-42) is worth the having.

The WRR-2 is certainly an example of nothing succeeding like excess, but it is some radio. In older (vacuum tube) designs, the bigger and heavier the radio, generally the better. Weight contributed to stability. But I wouldn't want a WRR-2 - or even an R-390.

I remember Lafayette's S-38 look-alike, the KT-200. Somewhat larger than the S-38, it was transformer powered and had a tuned RF stage. Not a bad radio for its time. There was an upgraded version of it - the HE-30 (slide rule dial). A friend of mine got a lot of good use out af a HE-30. Sensitivity dropped off on the higher frequencies. Believe Allied had this same radio under their imprimatur in their latter days. Incidentally, the commercial designer responsible for cabnets & panel layouts/dials/control placements on many Hallicrafters receivers (including the S-38), Raymond Loewy, recently died. Hallis nearly always had "eye appeal".

Hugh, in 1940 I wish my father had gotten me a HQ120 or even a Sky Buddy; but the Truetone table radio we had was enough to set me ever thereafter seeking the better and the better in pursuing my radio listening hobby. Certain wants which fired us when we were young and most impressionable seem never to leave us. Much of our hobbying, I think, has its roots in childhood excitements that we strive to create equivalences of for the rest of our lives.

The HQ-225 and SB-310 were/are fine receivers (don't know much about the SX-190, but, being of the "Collins" design, must have been in the same class). The SW-4 was a good, well built, radio but lacked a BFO and variable selectivity. All of these radios were SWL versions of Ham receivers marketed by the same manufacturers, with International Broadcast Bands substituted for the Amateur Bands - just a matter of changing crystals in the first conversion oscillator stage. But a disadvantage of these radios was limited frequency coverage, making "out-of-band" stations inaccessable.

IN REGARD TO THE RP-F11 (evidently the RF-11 Hugh mentions), James B. Feeley, GA, writes in response to Daniel Kaminsky's disappointment with this receiver (RIB 112-113):

I also own an RP-F11 and am quite pleased with it. I can receive every major S.W. broadcaster. However, I caution Daniel that he keep in mind that [the RP-F11] is, after all, a less than $10 port-

able and not compare it to expensive communications receivers.

My job requires me to travel a lot and stay in motels. I have found I get the best reception when I attach about 30 feet of wire instead of using the whip antenna. The mass of concrete and metal in many newer buildings blocks out too many radio waves. When possible I string the wire across a window or even hang it outside.

I also often use an AC adaptor instead of relying on the batteries. Caution: apparently the RP-F11 requires an adaptor with reversed polarity from that in most adaptors. To prevent serious damage be sure only to use the Toshiba TAC-64 adaptor.

The only complaint I have with this light weight, compact, portable radio is the ease with which it can accidently be left on even with its safety lock.

Tnx James. Daniel should find your remarks of some interest.

A while back I indicated a wish to hear from anyone who has had "hands on" experience with the Uniden/Bearcat DX-1000. We have received a well written review of this receiver from David Solliday, Vega Baja, PR. David's letter follows:

...I wish I could get ahold of some of those older receivers you have been discussing lately. I have three receivers, but they are all of more recent origin. I don't think older receivers are as easy to find here in Puerto Rico where I live as they are there in the United States. But, nevertheless, I have my eyes open in case I run on to something like a Hallicrafters, National or Collins receiver.

I am not writing to discuss older model receivers, however. I am writing in response to your latest edition where you mentioned on p. 33 of RIB that you didn't know much about the Bearcat DX-1000 receiver and asked to hear from someone who has had "hands on" experience with this receiver. Since I own one and have had it for two years now, I guess I would qualify to share with you my evaluation of the DX-1000 receiver. I hope I can contribute something helpful in this regard. So here goes:

Let me begin by saying that I do like the DX-1000. I have enjoyed using it and have been able to do both types of listening with it (program and DX) with a good degree of success. It does have its shortcomings (as mentioned in your article - more about that later), but I don't feel it's either as bad as Larry Magne implies it is in the section "the best and the worst" in the '86 WRTV Handbook, nor as good as Uniden/Bearcat's advertising would have you believe. I have had it modified with one good filter installed and the filter layout changed resulting in a considerable improvement in the selectivity of my receiver. I am also using an ARCOMM AP4 Pre-selector/Pre-amp with it, and feel that the two work very well together, making what I consider to be a good listening and DX set up (The ARCOMM unit is an excellent piece of equipment which not only performs well but is quite flexible in its features - that in case anyone is interested in the topic of accessories for SW listening.)

The above being said, I'll try to discuss some of both the good points and weaknesses of the DX-1000 apart from those improvements which have been made to my receiver. 1) The micro-processor and memory features (as well as the clock/timer) are all quite good and continue to work well for me. The one drawback (though not really a problem) is that it can be a bit complicated and has some extra steps (such as in memory recall) that perhaps could be eliminated in an improved version - if there should be one. I like its timer feature which allows up to five different on-off periods with five different frequencies possible. I have used this feature a lot since I lead a very busy life and have to be out quite a bit. 2) It has good sensitivity when used with an outside antenna. When using the supplied whip it isn't so hot. 3) One of the best features is the "fine tune" [RIT] control which does allow for extremely fine tuning as well as improving the audio when using the narrow and mid bandwidth filters. That control is also very useful in SSB listening, making clarification of the signal much easier. 4) The DX-1000 is very stable. I have detected NO drift even when first turned on. This contributes to good SSB performance. 5) The audio is quite good when fed to a good quality external speaker. The internal speaker is quite small (2½ inches) which, although it has a large magnet, still lacks bass and thus sounds a bit thin. Related to this is what I consider to be one of the best tone controls I have ever seen on any radio. It has some bass boost on one end WITHOUT taking out all of the high freqs. and treble boost at the other end without significant bass cut. There are some other minor features which could be mentioned but are of lesser importance to its overall performance, so I'll not mention them.

Now, as to some weaknesses: 1) Selectivity in the stock model does leave much to be desired, with only the narrow filter being useful in separating strong stations 5 KHz apart. The original layout is a 2.7 kHz, a 6 kHz and a 12 kHz filter [@ 6 db down] - the last being absolutely useless for SW listening but does make for nice audio on strong local MW stations. The 6 kHz filter can be described as mediocre at best and useful only when there is no strong adjacent channel interference. Propitiously the three position filter selection does allow for good modification possibilities. I had the 12 kHz filter removed altogether, the 6 kHz filter moved over into its place and a good 4 kHz filter installed in the mid position: it is now a nice filter array much more useful for good SW and DX listening. 2) The operation and key-pad button assembly is made of plastic. Three

of the buttons have already broken. I was able to "fix" them using tiny pieces of metal cut from soda-pop tabs. They broke from just normal use. No abuse was involved. To me this is the poorest thing about this receiver. Also, the numbers on the key-pad wore off in a very short time. I know what they are but wish Bearcat had indented them in the keys so that they would last. 4) The RF Attenuator control is almost useless to me. It cuts too steeply (20 and 40 db) and reduces the sensitivity too much even in 20 db position. 5) The squelch control has been useless to me. I can see very little application to SW listening. 6) Battery consumption is very high if you use the 8 D size cells that can be installed inside the receiver. This is not a problem for me since the radio is too big to be really useful as a portable. If it is taken out for an outdoor listening session, it works well with the car battery cord that is included, so batteries are really not needed.

All in all, I think the DX1000 is a good value, especially now, as it can be bought for as little as $275 at at least one outlet (I paid $450 two years ago). At that price, modification is clearly a reasonable option for buying and improving it. I would like to see Uniden/Bearcat take what they have done and make improvements in the filters and in the materials for the front (i.e. controls), as well as other improvements. But there doesn't seem to be any indication that they are planning to do so. In closing, I hope that this information will be useful. It is a little long, but I couldn't really give you a good evaluation of the DX-1000 receiver without including all that I did. In your feature I would like to see a bit more about receiver accessories. ...saludos de la isla del encanto-Puerto Rico.

Very good, David. This is what we want: radio users, in a non-expert way (tho' "experts" are welcome too), giving estimations (the good points, the bad points) of their receivers. Hope you won't mind a few word/punctuation changes I made in your text, David. Have a feeling Uniden/Bearcat will have no more entries in the SW field, at least for a while, as I believe the DX-1000 turned out to be something of a disappointment for them. I would like to see every shortwave radio a market success, and merit being so.

OUR COLUMNS AND LETTERS FROM Peter Doherty, NC, have gotten out of sync; so I have received another from him primarily on the subject of the HRO-500. The foregoing, therefore, may repeat material that has already appeared. But I believe Peter's remarks should be presented in full:

Let's start with a few comments. I agree that design compromises are inevitable with any product produced for the public. Everyone has different wants and desires in a receiver. And likewise, receivers are usually tailored towards their final function. So there are probably two solutions to this dilemma. The first one would be to design and build your own receiver. If you had the time, know how and money, this would be the ultimate solution. You could incorporate every worthwhile feature that you desired, while eliminating those you felt frivolous. The solution, however, is beyond the reach of most SWLers. I don't relish the idea of grinding crystals for my new IF filter! The other solution is to collect enough receivers to cover the variety of reception tasks at hand. I think that I'll pursue the latter.

The DRAKE TR7 transceiver has a receiver section very similar to the R7. You [lc] are correct in stating that the TR7 doesn't have a switchable pre-amp. In most cases, I don't find this to be a hinderance, except on the highest frequencies. Of course, the intercept point favors the lack of a pre-amp. The receiver section shows it by being just about "uncrunchable" on the high density short wave bands. If I do need those extra few dbs on the highest bands, I use an external pre-amp that uses a very effective vacuum tube in the circuit. As you know, it is very easy to ruin an otherwise fine receiver's performance with an external pre-amp, but that is too big of a subject for now. The R7 also incorporated a notch filter which the TR7 doesn't have. One final difference I have noted is the AM detector. The TR7 uses the classic diode [envelope] detector for AM [full carrier] reception. relegating the task of SSB/CW reception to an IC chip, the MC 1496. The R7 uses this chip for AM/SSB/CW reception. It is probably why they coined the phrase "syncro-phase" detection, whatever that means. I have had an opportunity to use an R7 along with my TR7 and I find the diode detector sounds so much better for AM reception. To my ear it sounded cleaner and clearer. The R7 audio on AM sounded 'muddy'. This difference could have been in the particular R7 that I had, but as of now, I'll take the TR7 for AM reception.

So let's get on with the National HRO-500. I think that the receiver first appeared in the mid-sixties. And indeed it was very expensive, weighing in at about $2000. Unlike the former line of National receivers, the HRO-500 was like no other. About the only recognizable feature from its predecessors was the famous National epicyclic PW mechanism, an ingenious mechanical device, commonly known as the 'KNOB'. National even lays out its design philosophy for the receiver in the first pages of the owners maunual. For instance, consider the following: "The HRO-500 is a departure from conventional transistorized equipment in that the necessity for easy field maintenance in remote locations has been recognized in its design, as well as the desirability of sufficient panel space for knobs, dials and controls. Accordingly, while the receiver is far more compact than an equivalent vacuum tube equipment, no attempt has been made to 'miniaturize' the HRO-500 by the use of cordwood construction, printed circuits, etc. All transistors are mounted in plug in sockets and all components are hand wired. To further improve access and reduce component density,

most components are mounted on sub-assembled vertical boards..." Boy, what a philosophy! Too bad that more modern manufacturers cannot follow suit. The important phrase here is 'hand wired' Yes indeed, the entire receiver is hand built with impeccable workmanship. Imagine what this would cost to do today at current US wages. The receiver would probably cost $20,000! It is indeed easy to work on as mine needed extensive restoration in order to achieve its former glory.

The receiver incorporates just about all of the desirous features of a serious inhaler. It covers 5 kHz to 30 MHz in 500 kHz bands. Each band is selected by a phase-locked loop synthesizer. The interesting thing about the PLL is that it uses discrete transistors, not ICs. Remember, this receiver was designed before the advent of ICs. An up conversion scheme is used from 5 kHz to 4.0 MHz in order to eliminate gaps in the tuning range. So you have at your fingertips the entire VLF/LF/MF/HF spectrum. The frequency dial is extremely accurate for an analog scale. Mechanical numbers read out to the nearest 10 kHz, while increments on the main dial read out to the nearest 1 kHz. It is very easy to set the main tuning to within 250 Hz of the desired frequency. This certainly approaches digital readout accuracy.

The front end incorporates an RF pre-amp and tunable preselector. The ability to tune the front end keeps images to a minimum, as they are not noticable in normal operation. An RF attenuator is also included, calibrated in 10 db steps. A rejection tune is included which works at the IF frequency, making it very effective. It tunes a range of ±10 kHz. Separate product and envelope detectors are also incorporated for AM/SSB reception. Four separate bandwidths are available: 0.5/2.5/5.0/8.0 kHz. It is here that I have my only complaint about this receiver. In the 5.0/8.0 kHz positions, the bandwidth is determined by coupled IF transformers. This leads to a poor shape factor and ultimate rejection. So if you are trying to dig out a weak one, these two positions are just about useless. I will admit, though, that the fidelity of a signal coming through these bandwidths is excellent indeed. The IF transformers don't seem to color a signal like a sharp filter does. In the 5.0/8.0 kHz positions, a six pole LC filter is switched in. This filter is tunable, providing true-blue passband tuning, and not a play on words. This IF filter works amazingly well for a discrete component capacitor/inductor circuit. The 2.5 kHz position is very effective for weak signal DXing. The tunable passband works like a dream. I cannot imagine using any receiver without this feature. It might be nice to incorporate some type of crystal filter in the IF for the wider bandwidths. Unfortunately, the choice of an odd IF frequency (230 kHz) makes it impossible to retrofit an off the shelf filter.

The receiver is very easy to service and align. All of the transistors are plug in type, allowing for easy substitution. This came in very handy as, during restoration, several weak transistors were located and replaced. Yes, despite popular belief, transistors can wear out like tubes.

Other features are built in calibrator, ability to run on 12VDC/117-234VAC. The receiver draws so little [current] that you can run it on eight "D" cells. Every important point within the receiver is available on the back panel for all sorts of experimenting.

So, needless to say, the HRO-500 is a very versatile performer. I have had many hours of enjoyable listening with it. It is very hard to find fault on any account, except in the wider IF bandwidths. The HRO-500 represented a pinnacle of engineering and development at National Radio. After decades of receivers of impeccable quality, the HRO-500 and HRO-600 were appropriate contributions to the art of radio reception. Unfortunately, National has fallen by the wayside, probably a victim of the overseas influx of electronics. As far as I'm concerned, though, they certainly left a legacy behind....

An excellent assessment of an excellent receiver. Believe I may have previously quoted from material on the HRO-500 which I have, which may duplicate a bit of the above.

I found Peter's remarks about the Drake R7 and TR7 most interesting, especially his observation about the difference in audio quality between the two, favoring the latter with its "diode detector" over the former with its much heralded "synchro-phase detector" [for full carrier AM reception]. I have never had the opportunity to do any listening with either this receiver or the transceiver, so I can't render a "with mine own ears" judgement. There has been some confusion, some questioning, as to just what a "synchro-phase" detector is. The term was coined by Drake for an unique type of detector circuit for AM (full carrier) signals. It has been written about by the previous editor of this column, Mr Newkirk. Let me reiterate, this is not a "synchronous heterodyne detector" of the type available in the Sherwood add-on device (still available?) or the Sony 2010, where a locally generated carrier (BFO) is phase locked to the incoming signal resulting in very linear demodulation. In the TR7 the MC1496 chip is used for "non-synchronous heterodyne detection" of suppressed and full carrier signals as well as for CW reception. Simply, the undemodulated IF signal goes to one port of the chip and the BFO to another. For demodulating full carrier transmissions the IF signal may be routed to a diode. In the R7 the diode detector is eliminated with the MC1496 being used to demodulate suppressed carrier signals and full carrier signals by the NSHD method; also it will demodulate full carrier signals without the need of a locally generated carrier (BFO). This is accomplished by using the undemodulated IF signal itself as a "BFO", that is, it is injected at two ports on the chip: where the IF signal goes and where the locally generated carrier (BFO) goes. The role in demodulation that would be played by the BFO (in heterodyne detection) is being played by the IF signal itself. Obviously

this has the great advantage of not having to keep a BFO correctly phased to the IF signal to secure proper demodulation. The IF signal can't drift away from itself, will always be "synchro-phased", as it were. The recovered audio from such a detector, at least in theory, should be quite good, it being superior to the diode ("envelope") detector similar to the ways in which a true synchronous detector is superior (better linearity, frequency response, elimination of selective fading distortion). Yet most of the reports I've heard on R7 audio are less than enthusiastic - not necessarily wholly the fault of the detector itself. On the basis of Drake's promotion of the S-P detector and Mr. Magne's highly favourable review of the R7 (WRTH - 1980) - the good audio was noted along with the receiver's many other virtues - I nearly purchased one (finally I determined it was just too expensive). It seemed that a major step had been taken toward making shortwave stations (even in bandwidths as narrow as 4 kHz) really listenable...without the hassle of BFO phasing as in NSHD reception. But with the demise of Drake and the synchronous detector becoming a reality in "consumer" equipment, it doesn't seem likely we'll be seeing the S-P detector in other receivers.

The way to determine the quality of audio from a receiver's demodulation stage is to take the detector output (most conveniently from the record output) into a hi-fi system.

["From NBC Radio this is a test of satellite channel 11, switch up" - W3/2H 86.3.]

How did that get in here? Did I just now hear it and thus have committed a prosecutable offense?

I understand the NRD-515 had good quality audio derived from an envelope detector. ICOMs are a bit sub-par in "AM mode" audio. How good do McKay Dymek receivers sound? They featured "Class D AM envelope detection for low distortion even at high modulation percentages". Being a "technical bof-fin" I don't know what is meant by "class D AM envelope detection". Do vacuum tube "diode detectors" have better linearity than crystal diodes used as detectors? I believe so.

What more can be said of the HRO-500 except that I wish I had one. Have no info on the HRO-600 - National's last. Was it fully synthesized? Would like some "input" from those among you who have had experience with prestige radios of the recent past, e.g. the R1530, the DSR-1, etc.

And going back to the latter days of the vacuum tube receiver, I'd like to hear about the NC-400, the SX-112 and the GPR-90/92

THE "IDEAL" RECEIVER, CIRCA 1960, would have had the "front end" of the GPR-90 (grounded grid input stage followed by a pentode), the conversion scheme, VFO and mechanical filters of the Collins receivers, and the audio stage of the HRO-60.

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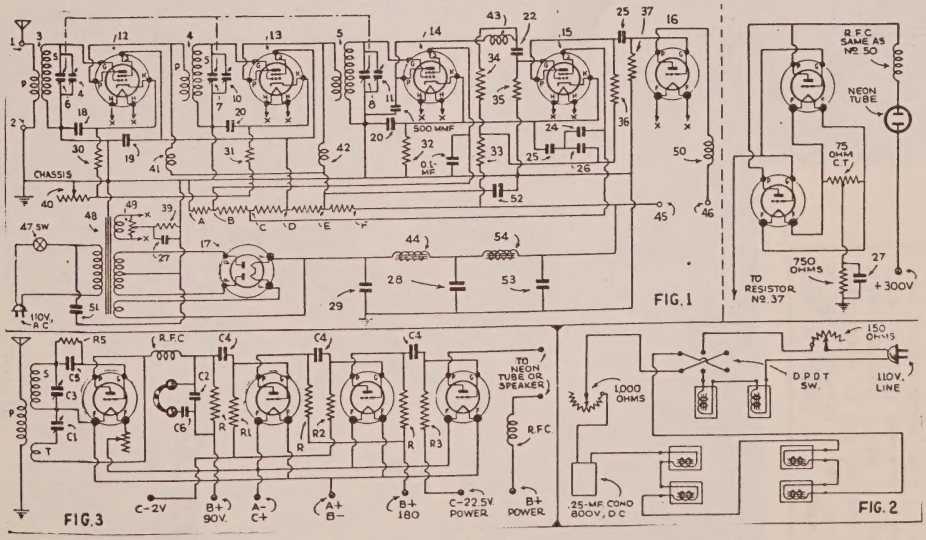
THE REF ANTIQUE CIRCUIT OF THE MONTH WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR IN EVERY ISSUE WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPEAR EACH MONTH



If you were a television experimenter in the early '30s you would be making use of something very similar to the above. Shown in schematic form are two TRF tuners - one AC operated and one battery powered - covering 200 to 70 meters. Also shown are an alternative "video amplifier" and the scanning motor and control. The builder used a 175' long wire and could receive 60 or 45 line transmissions with the appropriate scanning disc. The best station to receive in the midwest was the 1500 watt W9XG at Purdue University (2750-2850 kHz), running a 60 hole single spiral disc at 1200 R.P.M.

REVIEW OF
INTERNATIONAL
BROADCASTING

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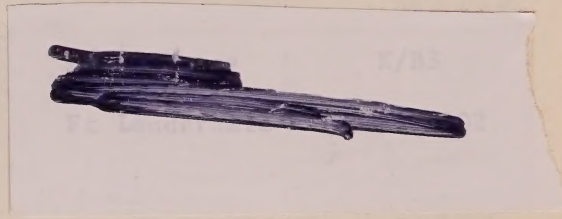
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